Bengaluru Thursday, February 26, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 57 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Dogra plays down headbutt incident

J&K Ranji skipper says spat with K'taka's Aneesh happened in 'heat of the moment'

Page 13

World

Bill Gates admits affairs but denies involvement in Epstein crimes P.10

World P.10

Trump calms voters' economic concerns ahead of midterm polls

Sports

Kiwis knock Lanka out of T20WC P.14

Business

AI accounts for 84% of deeptech startups P.11

US imposes 126% tariff on import of Indian solar panels

Accuses New Delhi of unfair subsidies; slaps higher tariffs on other producers

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Barely weeks after New Delhi and Washington agreed on a framework for an interim trade deal, US President Donald Trump's administration on Wednesday announced a steep 126% tariff on certain solar goods imported from India, accusing it of unfairly subsidising these products.

The US Commerce Department has also set initial duties in the range of 86%-143% for Indonesia and 81% for Laos. The rates are based on the determination of foreign subsidies that the US says allowed exporters from these countries to undercut domestic solar products.

In a fact sheet, the US Commerce Department claimed that solar panel manufacturers in India get 126% subsidy, while it stands at 104% for Indonesia and 80% for Laos.

The Indian government has not commented on the latest US tariff move so far.

Earlier this month India and the US came out with a framework for a bilateral trade deal, under which the US had agreed to lower tariffs on a majority of Indian imports from 50% to 18%. While this proposal became irrelevant after the US Supreme Court's ruling, the latest tariffs on solar products add to the uncertainty.

The opposition Congress has sharpened its attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government over the trade deal, with senior leaders of the party asking the government to keep the deal on hold.

India is the fifth largest supplier of solar modules to the US. In 2024, out of the 54 GW of solar modules imported by the US, India accounted for 4.4 GW, or 8% of the total volume.

The new tariff announcement led to a sharp drop in the share prices of Indian solar equipment makers. Waaree Energies claimed that the new US tariff would not have any adverse material impact, while Vikram Solar expected a limited impact.

ANOTHER TARIFF JOLT

The latest duty is over and above 15% tariffs announced by Trump

Solar exports from India to US: 2022 $83.86 mn; 2024 $792.6 mn

3rd India's rank in global solar power production

Main countries exporting solar modules to India: China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore

Import of solar modules by India: $4.35 bn (2023-24); $2.15 bn (2024-25)

> On February 24, 2026, the US Department of Commerce announced its preliminary affirmative determinations in the countervailing duty investigations of crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, whether or not assembled into modules (solar cells), from India, Indonesia, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos)
>
> **US GOVT ORDER**

May hit Indian companies hard

The move to impose 126% duty on Indian solar goods by the US may significantly impact exports. The US has been a key growth market, especially as Indian firms expand their solar goods production.
Details on Page 11

After yrs in limbo, TDR market set for digital push

GBA to launch an online exchange for TDR certificates

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Finally, transactions related to transferable development rights (TDR) are set to go digital in a month's time.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is building an online, exchange-like platform to publish all types of information related to Development Rights Certificates (DRCs), which are issued to owners in lieu of cash compensation for parting with land for public projects. The digital marketplace hopes to connect DRC holders directly with potential buyers, including developers.

"We have developed a software to publish all certificates issued under TDR in public domain. The digital platform will show the list of TDRs issued and ones available for purchase," Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary at the Urban Development Department, told *DH*.

The initiative comes at a time when TDRs are gaining traction in Bengaluru after a gap of 7-8 years. In all likelihood, DRCs will enter the market in large numbers with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) providing TDR as one of the five compensation options for parting land for the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC).

Second, the GBA has also started issuing DRCs for new road-widening projects in the city. It is also in the process of revalidating about 1,500 TDRs it issued several years ago but the process has been slow.

TDR certificates allow developers to build beyond the permissible Floor Area Ratio (FAR) subject to restrictions in a particular location or area.

A senior GBA official said the software would play the role of an exchange platform for TDR certificates.
▸ **TDR, Page 5A**

DIGITAL DEALS

1. Digital marketplace hopes to connect Development Rights Certificates holders directly with potential buyers
2. It will help land losers seek true value for their TDR certificate
3. The software would play the role of an exchange platform for TDR certificates in B'luru
4. So far, there was little information about the availability of DRCs in the open market

Retd BBMP chief engineer found hanging

BENGALURU, DHNS: A retired chief engineer of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was found dead at his home in Koramangala 4th Block in southeastern Bengaluru on Wednesday, police said.

According to officials, R L Parameshwaraiah (63), went to the first floor of his duplex house around 11.45 am and allegedly hanged himself. His wife, Mahalakshmi, later discovered the body and screamed for help. Neighbours arrived to help and alerted the police.

On January 30, the Bengaluru Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered an FIR against Parameshwaraiah in a corruption case.
▸ **Engineer, Page 5A**

Gaza Peace Initiative path for just, durable peace: Modi in Israel

JERUSALEM, PTI

In a historic address to the Knesset, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday described the Gaza Peace Initiative as a path towards "just and durable peace" in the region even as he delivered a powerful message of solidarity with Israel, asserting that "terrorism anywhere threatens peace everywhere".

Modi said like Israel, India has a "consistent and uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism with no double standards" and called for sustained and coordinated global efforts to counter the menace.

PM Modi being welcomed by Benjamin Netanyahu . PTI

The PM's address to the Knesset, Israel's house of representatives, came hours after he landed in the country to a rousing welcome with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu along with his wife Sara receiving him at the Ben Gurion airport.

"I also carry with me the deepest condolences of the people of India for every life lost and for every family whose world was shattered in the barbaric terrorist attack by Hamas," Modi said.

"We feel your pain. We share your grief. India stands with Israel, firmly, with full conviction, in this moment, and beyond. No cause can justify the murder of civilians. Nothing can justify terrorism," he said.
▸ **Modi, Page 5A**
Related report, Page 8

SC: Can't vilify communities through speech

NEW DELHI, DHNS: It is constitutionally impermissible for any entity, whether state or non-state actors, to vilify or denigrate a community through any medium, including speech or art, the Supreme Court observed.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's observations, while hearing a plea against a Netflix film, came days after the apex court separately declined to entertain a plea against Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma over a hate speech video.
Details on Page 8

The fire in Chickpet.
DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Massive blaze guts 21 shops in Chickpet

BENGALURU, DHNS: A massive fire in a three-storey commercial complex in the Pete area destroyed at least 21 shops and caused widespread panic in the busy commercial area on Wednesday morning, officials said.

The fire broke out in Kumbarpet in Chickpet area off Avenue Road around 6.30 am. Since it occurred early in the morning, most shops were closed, preventing what could have been a bigger disaster.
Details on Page 3

NCERT removes chapter on 'judicial corruption' after CJI rebuke

NEW DELHI, DHNS: After Chief Justice of India Surya Kant strongly objected to a chapter on judicial corruption in the NCERT's Class 8 Social Science textbook on Wednesday, the syllabus-setting body withdrew the contentious textbook from its website.

A bench led by the CJI said the court has taken cognisance of it as the move seems to be a "deliberate" and a "calculated measure" to defame the institution.

"I will not allow anyone on earth to defame the institution. I know how to deal with it," the CJI said, as senior advocates Kapil Sibal and A M Singhvi urged the court to take a suo motu cognisance of the matter.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Social Science textbook for Class 8 said corruption, a massive backlog of cases, and the lack of an adequate number of judges are among the challenges faced by the judicial system.

Sources reported that the government was outraged by the controversial references in the curriculum.

The council is also considering the removal of the controversial portions from the Class 8 textbooks already printed, sources said.
▸ **NCERT, Page 5A**

NCERT apologises

The NCERT on Wednesday apologised for "inappropriate content" after facing the Supreme Court's ire over a chapter talking about judicial corruption and said the book concerned will be rewritten. Page 8

Andhra milk adulteration: 2 more die

The death toll in the Rajamahendravaram milk adulteration incident has risen to six, with two more victims, a six-year-old boy and a 58-year-old woman, succumbing to renal failure. Seven others remain in critical condition.
Details on Page 8

CPI stalwart Nallakannu dies at 101

Veteran leader of the CPI and freedom fighter, R Nallakannu, died in Chennai on Wednesday. Nallakannu was an icon of the Communist movement and an epitome of simplicity in public life. He fought for people's rights for over eight decades and took pride in never holding any positions.
Details on Page 8

UNFILLED POSTS

Of 2.85L govt job vacancies, 60% in group-C

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

More than 60% of the 2.85 lakh vacant posts in state government departments in Karnataka belong to group-C category, with the figure likely to increase by the end of March when a few thousand employees in various groups will retire, according to government data and sources.

The rising vacancies come against the backdrop of an ongoing massive protest in Dharwad where thousands of aspirants have asked the state government to fill up posts.

As per data, as many as 2,84,881 posts are vacant in group A, B, C and D categories. Sources said this will rise by at least 6,000 by the end of March.

Of the total vacant posts, 1,72,190 (60.44%) are in group-C, followed by 79,340 in group-D, 17,180 in group-B, and 16,171 in group-A.

"The vacancies are high in group-C because the sanctioned posts are also high in this category," said CS Shadakshari, Karnataka State Government Employees' Association.

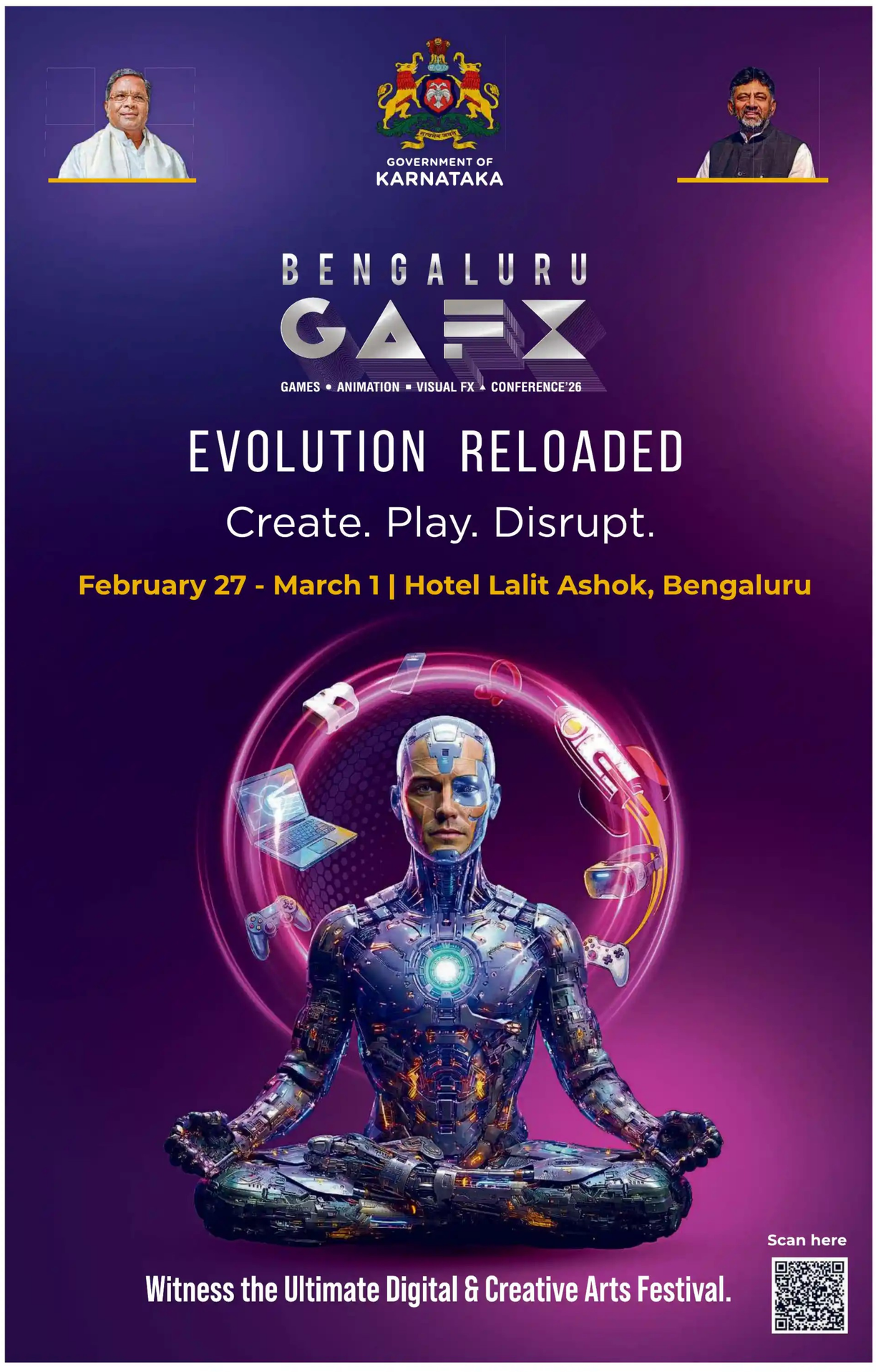
According to information, of the 2.85 lakh vacant posts, as many as 96,844 positions have been outsourced or filled on a contract basis. While category-wise figures about the outsourced jobs were not available, posts in groups C and D are more likely to get outsourced because they need less skillsets.
▸ **Vacancies, Page 5A**

GROUPWISE VACANCIES

A	B	C	D	Total
16,171	17,180	1,72,190	79,340	2,84,881

Nod to fill 24k posts

As per information, the finance department has given approval to fill 24,000 posts. The department has also given in-principle approval to fill 32,132 posts under 371 J (reservation for Kalyana Karnataka). In the last three years, various recruitment agencies have filled 8,157 posts and the process to fill 3,081 posts is under process.


GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU
GAFX
GAMES • ANIMATION • VISUAL FX • CONFERENCE'26
EVOLUTION RELOADED
Create. Play. Disrupt.
February 27 - March 1 | Hotel Lalit Ashok, Bengaluru
Witness the Ultimate Digital & Creative Arts Festival.
Scan here

M5 Ecity

M5 BIG WIN DAYS*

SHOP&WIN

SHOP FOR ₹5000+ AT M5 ECITY AND STAND A CHANCE TO WIN

OFFER VALID TILL 28TH FEBRUARY

DISCOUNTS WORTH A CELEBRATION

PVR | lifestyle | LuLu daily | max | Sapna | FUN CITY

HIGHLANDER X TOKYO TALKIES | babyshop | RARE RABBIT | RAREISM | Bath & Body Works | ALDO

GAP | R&B | SNITCH | Beverly Hills Polo Club | DESTINI | BARBEQUE NATION | Just Jumpin'

RETAIL BRANDS

The Souled Store | Levi's | U.S. Polo Assn. | Flying Machine | Jockey | Speedo | Big Hello | Samsonite Black Label | Hidesign | Mokobara | Zouk | American Tourister | Baggit | Lavie | Forest Essentials | Nykaa | Beauty & Nutrie | TONI&GUY | TRiBE by Croma - Apple Reseller | Samsung | HP | Just In Time | Titan World | Fastrack | Hush Puppies | Metro Shoes | Crocs | Bata | Sulthan | CaratLane | Giva | Swa Diamonds | Zubi Gold | Mia by Tanishq | Aira by Navrathan Jewellery | Ray-Ban | GKB Opticals | Titan Eye+ | MacV | Raymond Ready To Wear | Arrow | ColorPlus | Monte Carlo | Park Avenue | Ethnix by Raymond | Kingdom of White | The Pant Project | Espanshe | Soch | Meena Bazaar | Libas | Peachmode | Vismay | Virgio | Odette | Go Colors | Enamor | NYKD by Nykaa | Sweet Dreams | Agaro | HomesToLife | Miniso | Uni Seoul | Cuddly | Fanship | Horror House | Nails Aura | Arch Gallery | iGadgets | Peora

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Copper Chimney | Rajdhani | Starbucks | Big Bean Café | Chaayos | Krispy Kreme | Baskin Robbins | Taco Bell | Burger King | Popeyes | KFC | Pizza Hut | Chicking | Biggies Burger | GOPIZZA | Subway | Bigguys | Purani Delhi | Kakal Kai Ruchi |Ice Brook Café | Funky Belgian Waffle | Charminar | Shanghai Times | Nagas | Wow! Momo | Hottey Smokey | Squeez Juice Bar | Chai Bliss | Samosa Singh | Smooth Gelato | Videshi Chocolates

T&Cs Apply*

CHAIN OF EVENTS

Blaze broke out in Kumbarpet, off Avenue Road, around 6.30 am. Most shops were closed.

- Fire officials suspect the blaze began in a fancy store on the first floor and spread rapidly due to highly inflammable materials such as perfumes and plastic goods stored in bulk.
- Poor ventilation in the narrow building intensified the flames within minutes.
- One worker from the fancy store sustained minor burns. He was taken to hospital and discharged after first aid.
- Firefighters battled the flames for more than eight hours and brought it under control around 4.30 pm.

Third fire incident

This is the third fire incident in the locality in recent months, raising concerns over fire safety compliance. In August 2025, a family, including two children, died in a fire on the ground floor of a five-storey building in narrow Rajanna Lane, Nagarathpet.

MARKET BLAZE: Shopkeepers called fire force only after 2 hours; losses estimated at Rs 2.5 crore

Fire rips through Chickpet complex; 21 shops gutted

BENGALURU, DHNS

A massive fire gutted 21 shops in a three-storey commercial complex in Chickpet's Pete area on Wednesday morning, causing panic in the busy locality.

The blaze broke out in Kumbarpet, off Avenue Road, around 6.30 am. As most shops were closed, a major tragedy was averted.

Police pegged the loss around Rs 2.5 crore.

Fire officials suspect the blaze began in a fancy store on the first floor and spread rapidly due to highly inflammable materials such as perfumes and plastic goods stored in bulk. Poor ventilation in the narrow building intensified the flames within minutes. The gutted shops sold fancy items, perfumes, toys, printing materials and hardware.

A worker from the fancy store sustained minor burns while trying to extinguish the fire. He was taken to hospital and discharged after first aid.

Workers and nearby occupants were evacuated as a precaution. The fire control room received a call at 8.40 am, nearly two hours after the blaze is believed to have started.

"Shopkeepers and local residents tried to douse the fire themselves fearing a police case. When it did not come under control, only then did they call the fire force around 8.40 am. We deployed 14 fire tenders. Two of them have been kept on standby near the scene until Thursday as a precaution," Jayaramaiah PS, Chief Fire Officer, Bengaluru East Zone, told *DH*.

Firefighters battled the flames for more than eight hours and brought it under control around 4.30 pm.

Officials said narrow lanes and closely packed buildings made access difficult for fire tenders.

An electrical short circuit is suspected to have triggered the blaze. Police and Fire and Emergency Services personnel have begun an inquiry to ascertain the cause and assess property damage.

Muragha, the building's watchman who first noticed the fire, said he saw thick smoke billowing from the closed shops.

The commercial building, Lakshmi Complex, houses 125 shops across three floors. It belongs to Vinod Kumar K of Kanakapura, who has rented the shops to various businesses.

This is the third fire incident in the locality in recent months, raising concerns over fire safety compliance.

Halasuru Gate police have registered a case of accidental fire and recorded the building owner's statement.

Firefighters battle the blaze at a three-storey Chickpet commercial complex in Kumbarpet, off Avenue Road, on Wednesday morning. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN & PTI

Wall-to-wall markets, no escape routes: Pete areas sit on a tinderbox

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Localities in Bengaluru's historic Pete areas — Chickpet, Thigalarapet, Nagarthpet, Kumbarpet, etc — are known for wholesale hardware, electrical and plastic goods markets.

Every day, thousands of traders, labourers, goods trucks and shoppers enter the narrow lanes lined with ageing multi-storey buildings stocked heavily.

Wednesday morning's massive blaze, which destroyed 21 shops in a three-storey building in Kumbarpet, was not the first such incident.

In August 2025, a family, including two children, died in a fire on the ground floor of a five-storey building in narrow Rajanna Lane, Nagarathpet.

A senior police officer from the Halasuru Gate police station said most buildings in these areas are packed wall-to-wall, with little ventilation and limited emergency exits.

In a fire, smoke can engulf entire structures within minutes, trapping people inside. Customers on upper floors may find staircases choked with smoke, while workers in storage areas have little room to escape, he noted.

Jayaramaiah PS, Chief Fire Officer, Bengaluru East Zone, said firefighting is equally challenging. Fire tenders often struggle to navigate the narrow, congested lanes. In several incidents, firefighters had to drag hoses long distances as vehicles could not reach the spot.

Traders on Avenue Road admit electrical overload, illegal storage and lack of fire safety compliance are common. With buildings close together and access roads barely wide enough for two-wheelers, a major blaze during peak hours could cause heavy casualties.

Sundar Abhimanyu, a resident of Kumbarpet, said local traders allege that poor ventilation, storage of inflammable materials in bulk, and inaccessibility for emergency vehicles have made the area a fire trap.

Shop owners also encroach on footpaths and roads by displaying goods, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk. Traffic police should take strict action, he added.

> Shopkeepers and local residents tried to douse the fire themselves fearing a police case. When it did not come under control, only then did they call the fire force around 8.40 am. We deployed 14 fire tenders. Two of them have been kept on standby near the scene until Thursday as a precaution.
>
> **– Jayaramaiah PS**
> Chief Fire Officer,
> Bengaluru East Zone

Open Day at Raman Research Institute on Saturday

BENGALURU, DHNS: City-based Raman Research Institute (RRI) will host its Open Day 2026 on Saturday, marking National Science Day in celebration of the 98th anniversary of its founder Sir CV Raman's Nobel Prize-winning discovery of the Raman Effect.

The event will be held in two sessions — 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm — at RRI, CV Raman Avenue, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru.

Over 1,000 students from schools across Bengaluru have confirmed participation, RRI said in a statement.

Visitors will have the opportunity to interact directly with research scholars and engineers, participating in hands-on experiments designed to ignite curiosity.

The festivities also include exciting competitions such as science quizzes, photography contests, and creative costume displays, RRI added.

Housekeeping staff caught posing as tax officials, extorting Rs 5L

BENGALURU, DHNS: Banashankari police arrested two housekeeping staff for impersonating central government officials and extorting a businessman of Rs 5 lakh, officials said.

The arrested are Nagaraju P, 37, and Dadapeer Ballari, 35. Both worked as outsourced housekeeping staff at the Office of the Principal Commissioner of Central Tax in Bengaluru.

Based on specific inputs, at 11.30 am on February 17, vigilance officers searched the rooms where the duo stayed. They found Rs 1 lakh with Ballari and Rs 1.50 lakh with Nagaraju.

Further searches revealed three fake ID cards bearing the names Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Office of the Principal Commissioner of Central Tax (GST), Bengaluru West Commissionerate. The cards showed the designations "intelligence officer" and "sepoy".

Officials also found copies of six fake search warrants.

Under questioning, the duo confessed that on January 10, they posed as officials from the "GST office" and extorted a gutka businessman in Peenya of Rs 5 lakh.

Police then placed the suspects under arrest. . Further probe is on.

Six-month-old baby's finger severed at Indiranagar hospital

Police register FIR after father alleges medical negligence

BENGALURU, DHNS

A six-month-old infant lost part of his left-hand pinky finger in a suspected case of medical negligence at a private hospital in eastern Bengaluru's Indiranagar on February 24, officials said.

Based on a complaint from the baby's father, the police have registered a case against the management of Chinmaya Mission Hospital, an unidentified doctor and a nurse named Anitha.

The baby was admitted to the hospital on February 19, after presenting with high fever and cold. The treatment continued until February 24.

Around 3 pm that day, after doctors decided to discharge the baby, the nurse cut the pinky finger on the baby's left hand while removing the dressing for the drip. The baby was then taken to the emergency room where the wound was dressed, the father told the police.

"We were told it was not a big wound and it would heal by itself," he stated, as per the FIR. The Indiranagar police have opened a case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Section 125(b) (acts that endanger human life or personal safety through rash or negligent behaviour) and launched an investigation.

BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar with senior officials during a visit to a Pink Line station on Wednesday.

Metro chief inspects Pink Line's elevated stretch

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) Managing Director J Ravishankar on Wednesday inspected ongoing works on the elevated section of the Pink Line.

As part of the regular progress review and quality assurance process, he inspected the stretch to assess construction progress, adherence to safety protocols, engineering standards and overall project preparedness.

The inspection covered civil works, station development, viaduct construction, system installations, and other associated infrastructure components, BMRCL said in a statement.

Although the BMRCL aims to commission the 7.5-km stretch this May, much would depend on statutory clearances for the new trains that will operate on the route.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

Corrigendum No. 1 for Tender Notice No.: DY.CEE/CON/RE-II/MLG/01/2026, dtd.: 04-02-2026 against tender No.: EL-CON-MLG-09-2025-26-D-K. Details are as under:-

Sl No.	Website Tender Notice detail before corrigendum, EXISTING	After the corrigendum in suppression of previous details, TO BE READ AS
1	**Closing of Tender:-** 13-03-2026, 11:00 Hrs. Physical submission of mandatory Document listed in clause 2.11.2:- 20-03-2026, 11:00 Hrs **Opening of Tender:-** 23-03-2026, 16:00 Hrs	**Closing of Tender:-** 03-04-2026, 11:00 Hrs. Physical submission of mandatory Document listed in clause 2.11.2:- 10-04-2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Opening of Tender:-** 13-04-2026, 16:00 Hrs.

N.B. : Other terms and conditions of tender will remain same.

AEE/CON/HQ, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CN/04/2026 Dated: 19.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
95265052	Uninsulated Cadmium Copper Catenary Wire (19/2.10 mm) 65 Sqmm. confirming 1 to RDSO Specification No. TI/SPC/OHE/CAT(Cu-Cd)/0971 OR Latest. Material to be supplied in wooden drums with maximum 3000 Mtr. of length. **(Qty.: 6000 Mtrs.)**

Last date for Submission/Tender Due on:
Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 09.03.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Materials Manager/Construction/ Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/927/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi– 834004.
fax # 0651-2400483
e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com/**gmsp.jbvnl@rediffmail.com**

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Due to some unavoidable circumstances NIT No. **103 & 104/PR/JBVNL/2025-26** is hereby cancelled.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR 373594 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (25-26)_D

PR No. 357373
Sd/-
DGM (Purchase)
JBVNL

JAPIT
Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology

(An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology, Govt. of Jharkhand)
Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel – I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand
Phone. 0651-2401040, 2401067 Fax.- 0651-2401040

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

On behalf of Government of Jharkhand, Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology (JAP-IT) invites online bid through Jharkhand e-procurement portal (https:\\Jharkhandtenders.gov.in) for "Selection of Service Provider for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of IP CCTV System installed at various District Courts".

1.	**Tender Reference number**	JAP-IT/CCTV/AMC/04/2026	
2.	Name of Work	Selection of Service Provider for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of IP CCTV System installed at various District Courts	
3.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Only) through Jharkhand e-Procurement portal	
4.	Start date downloading Tender document	26.02.2026	
5.	Site Visit Schedule	26.02.2026 to 28.02.2026 (From 11.30 AM at 4.30 PM)	
6.	Start date of bid submission	02.03.2026, 03:00 PM	
7.	Last date and time of Online Bid Submission	09.03.2026, 03:00 PM	
8.	Technical Bid Opening	10.03.2026, 03:30 PM	
9.	Commercial Bid Opening	To be informed later.	
10.	Place of Communication/ Bid Submission/ Bid Opening	JAP-IT, Ground Floor, Engineers Hostel 1, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004	
11.	Contact for Site Visit	Civil Court, Chaibasa City:- Chaibasa Dist:- West Singhbhum State:- Jharkhand PIN Code:- 833201 Email :- civilcourt.chaibasa@gmail.com FAX :- 06582 256398	Civil Courts, Palamu at Daltonganj, Jharkhand, Pin: 822101 Email: palamaujudgeship@gmail.com Phone/Fax:06562-224075
		Civil Court Ranchi Civil Court Main Building, First Floor, Ranchi-834001 Jharkhand Email :- reg-ranchi@aij.gov.in Contact: 0651-2212423 Fax : 0651-2202414	Civil Court, Dhanbad Email : reg-dhanbad@aij.gov.in TEL/FAX: 0326-2311689
12.	Contact/ e-mail ID	Tel: 0651-2401044 Email: ceo.japit@jharkhandmail.gov.in / japit_doit@rediffmail.com	

Note: 1. JAP-IT reserves the right to change the conditions or cancel the tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof. Please visit the portal regularly for the same.
2. The Bidders are advised to submit the Bids well in advance as JAP-IT/GoJ will not be responsible for non-submission of the bids because of any technical glitches

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
JAP-IT

PR 373610 (Information Technology)25-26*D

JOCKEY
FACTORY SECONDS
UPTO 50% OFF*
* T & C apply
10 am to 8 pm · Open All Days · Master / Visa Card Accepted
INNERWEAR · LEISUREWEAR · ACTIVEWEAR · KIDSWEAR · SOCKS
Venues In Bangalore
Infantry Road: Safina Plaza, No.84/85-560 001
Jayanagar: Hema Chandra Kalyan Mahal, 2nd Block, (Near Ashoka Pillar) - 11
Rajarajeshwari Nagar: Vasavi Mahal Kalyana Mantapa (Basement), Next to Reliance Digital, Ideal Homes I Phase - 560098
Vijay Nagar: Five O Gallery, 17th Cross, M.C. Road, Near Vijay Nagar Bus Stop - 560040
Rajajinagar: Raja Rajeshwari Kalyana Mantapa, 2nd Block, Next To Blue Hyunday Showroom, Dr. Rajkumar Road - 560010
Banshankari: Sri Hari Kalyana Mantap, 30th Main, B.S.K. 3rd Stage, Near K.I.M.S. Hospital - 560085 (This venue is close for 2 days i.e 26 & 27 feb, Restarts from 28th feb 26 (Saturday)
Koramangala: Apoorva International, #35A, Raheja Arcade, Opp Star Box - 560095
Basavanagudi: Amolak Apparels, 7/3, 1st Floor, Opp. Karnataka Bank - 560004
Org. by: Surya Agency Pvt. Ltd.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. 02/SBC/26 of 03.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Sub Work-I: Asst. Divisional Engineer / Mandya Sub Division:** Proposed extension of PF-1 and 2 for a length of 150 mtr and 5 mtr width at Krishnadevaraya Halt station in Bengaluru (SBC) - Yeliyur Section. **Sub Work-II: Asst. Divisional Engineer / Mandya Sub Division:** Proposed construction of compound wall near TRD quarters at Mandya. **Sub Work-III: KSR Bengaluru:** Repairs to the boundary wall of MG Railway colony, station building including SBC Yard. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 2,14,70,750/-
2	**KSR Bengaluru:** Proposed construction of sports complex including electrical portion near MG Colony cricket ground at KSR Bengaluru. Maintenance period is 24months. (Composite tender)	Rs. 9,18,15,193/-
3	**KSR Bengaluru:** Repairs to roof leakage of Type - IV and Type-II quarters (Q. No. 178, 194, 196, 197, 199, 201, 202, 203, 204, 207, 209, 210 and 242 Blocks) by providing trapezoidal sheet at Bengaluru (SBC). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 82,01,605/-
4	**Bengaluru - Sampige Road Section:** Fabrication of RH girders for the proposed pedestrian subways to facilitate crossing of railway alignment by cattle, Pedestrians and smaller vehicles in various locations as RCC box size 1x5mx2.65m in connection with speed increase upto 130 kmph (Total number of subways = 11 nos. Maintenance period is 03 months.	Rs. 1,03,34,149/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 26.02.2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination/ Bengaluru

PUB/932/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

Experts seek independent traffic cadre for Bengaluru

Call for tech-led mobility body to address congestion

ASRA MAVAD,
BENGALURU, DHNS

Urban experts are pushing for dedicated transport and traffic cadre to solve Bengaluru's worsening traffic problems.

Ashish Verma, Convener, Indian Institute of Science's Sustainable Transportation Lab, has called for sweeping structural reforms to fix Bengaluru's traffic crisis.

ABCDM approach

The professor criticised what he terms the "Anybody Can Do Mobility" (ABCDM) approach.

"Everybody is a road user and therefore, everybody has an opinion. But opinion is not expertise," he said, warning that fragmented decision making is pushing cities towards an "unsustainable and unliveable" future.

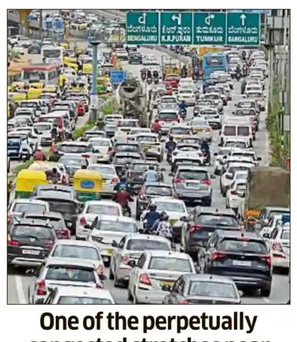
Verma argued that urban mobility is a classic case of complexity science.

"When you connect transport to quality of life, equity, public health and liveability, it becomes even more complex. You cannot handle it casually. You need people with expertise," he said.

"For example, when you see who the chairman of Isro is, it is a scientist and not an IAS officer. Traffic and mobility demand the same type of expertise."

His key proposal is the creation of a dedicated Urban Transport Service Cadre at the central and state levels.

Citing global models such as Transport for London and the Singapore Land Transport Authority, Verma called for unified, technically led institutions integrating planning, public transport and infrastructure. He warned that without structural reform, Bengaluru's traffic crisis will only worsen.



One of the perpetually congested stretches near the Hebbal flyover.
DH FILE PHOTO

Verma said he had taken the proposals to policymakers.

"We have met with Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and submitted detailed notes during pre-budget consultations with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Chief Economic Advisor, and contributed to the Economic Survey chapter," he noted.

Urban expert V Ravichandar agreed that traffic planning expertise does not currently exist within the traffic police, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), or city corporations.

ASHISH VERMA
Convener, Sustainable Transportation Lab, IISc

"Currently, traffic management is largely handled by the police, while transport agencies are headed by IAS officers. Traffic management and traffic law enforcement are two different things. Police should focus on enforcement. Planning and management require technical expertise.

"It is a highly specialised field, involving road engineering, network flow science, road geometry and multimodal integration. Bengaluru needs a dedicated traffic expertise cell, and the ideal institutional home for this expertise is the Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA)," he said.

Urban designer and architect Naresh Narasimhan said mobility planning should focus on reducing travel time, not just increasing vehicle speed, warning that adding road capacity is a flawed solution.

"Mobility matters will not be solved if it remains divided between parastatals, police and corporations. What Bengaluru needs is not another authority, but to make the BMLTA truly functional and powerful. Every major city has a unified land transit body that overrides fragmented departments and plans mobility scientifically," he added.

Water supply disruption areas today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has announced that there will be a one-day disruption in water supply in various localities.

The BWSSB is undertaking work to install EMF meters near the Gottegere reservoir as part of the Cauvery 5th Stage water supply project. Due to this, water supply will be disrupted from 6 am on February 26 to 6 am on February 27.

BWSSB Chairman V Ram Prasath Manohar has requested citizens to store water as a precaution.

The areas affected by the water supply disruption: Whitefield, Nallurahalli, Siddapura, Nagondanahalli, Ramagondanahalli, Channasandra, Hoodi, Garudacharpalya, Doddanekundi, Munekolala, Kumaraswamy Layout, Poornaprajna Layout, Banashankari, Kollahalli, Anjanapura, Gottigere, Begur, Kodichikkanahalli, Kudlu, Kadugodi, and surrounding areas.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

In Fond and Loving Memory of

Kiran K. Iyengar
31-8-1978 - 26-2-2004
Time may hide our sadness
Smile may hide our tears
But time has not healed our wounds.
We miss you every moment
FONDLY REMEMBERED
AND DEEPLY MISSED BY
YOUR SORROWFUL PARENTS

In loving memory

Smt. Shobha Talwar
DOB: 24/09/1944
DOD : 24/02/2026
on 26-02-2026 Thursday
Last respects at home
9.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.
Cremation at :
Wilson Garden Crematorium, Bangalore @ 12 p.m
Deeply mourned by family

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Book Release: 'Nava Kusumada Parimala'; Manoj Kumar Yadav, Madesh M, Kumar Indrabetta and others to participate; St Claret College; 11 am.

Blue Festival: India Deaf Expo; Priya Krishna, Abhinaya and others to take part; Mount Carmel College auditorium, Vasantnagar; from 10.30 am onwards.

Discussion: On life and writings of Sukanya Maruthi; Hampa Nagarajaiah, Banjagere Prakash and KA Dayananda to participate; Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavana, JC Road; 9.30 am.

CULTURAL

Kuvempu drama festival: Plays 'Jalagara' and 'Smashana Kurukshetra' to be performed; Organised by Natya Saraswati Shanthala Kannada Kala Sangha; Kalagrama, Mallathalli; 6 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	31.0°C
Minimum	19.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity	46%
Sunset (Feb 26)	6:25 pm
Sunrise (Feb 27)	6:42 am
Moonrise	12:32 pm
Moonset	12:58 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

State poll panel to publish final electoral list on April 6

Citizens can file objections from March 10-16

BENGALURU, DHNS

Citizens will get another chance to verify their names in the electoral roll as the State Election Commission (SEC) on Wednesday announced it will revise the voter list.

The decision comes ahead of elections to Bengaluru's five municipal corporations, slated for the end of June.

The revised schedule shows that the final electoral roll will be published on April 6, marking the third extension of the original deadline. The commission changed its roll revision schedule after elected representatives flagged "grave discrepancies" in the draft published on January 19.

The commission directed the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to re-publish the draft electoral roll on March 9, allow objections and complaints from March 10 to 16, and publish the final voters list on April 6.

The SEC decided to create its own electoral roll for Bengaluru's municipal elections, instead of using the updated voters list prepared by the Election Commission after assembly and parliament elections, necessitating the revised schedule.

The SEC noted that corporation elections will be held by June-end, as directed by the Supreme Court.

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public in General is hereby CAUTIONED that our clients **M/s. Numbercrunchers Careers Private Limited** having its registered office at door No. 10-1-17/1/1, 'Akasam', Level 3, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 004 has been illegally removed as a partner from **M/s. Kshethra Farms,** by forging the signature of director **M/s. Numbercrunchers Careers Private Limited,** in a Reconstitution cum Partnership Deed by forging and fabricated documents like Board Resolution and No-objection Affidavit. It is further informed to the public in General that, our client has already lodged a Police complaint and chargesheet is also filed before the Court. Our client has also initiated Arbitration Proceedings against the Partner Mrs Rayabarapu Kamakshi Jyosna and the same is pending adjudication. Wherein the Hon'ble Arbitrator has dismissed the application filed by Mrs Rayabarapu Kamakshi Jyosna under section 16 of Arbitration and Conciliat ion Act and also granted an order of Status Quo with regard to properties of the Firm i.e. Kshethra Farms. Further the forged Reconstitution cum Partnership Deed has also been declared as null and void by the order of District Registrar, Hyderabad South, vide Proceeding No. F/7676/2024 dated 08.09.2025. It has come to the knowledge of my client that Mrs Rayabarapu Kamakshi Jyosna, has fraudulently alienated firms property in favour of her nominees only to deprive the firm with its property. The details of the properties of the firm which has been alienate·d fraudulently are as under:

Following lands and sy nos situated at Kadadibbur, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapur Dist

1. 8 Guntas in Sy No. 64 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
2. 4 Guntas in Sy No. 67/4 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
3. 20 Guntas in Sy No. 67/1 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
4. 7 Guntas in Sy No. 65/5 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
5. 8 Guntas in Sy No. 65/7 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
6. 1 Acre 26 Guntas in Sy No. 69/1 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
7. 15 Guntas in Sy No. 68/2 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
8. 14 Guntas in Sy No. 68/4 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
9. 11 Guntas in Sy No. 65/1 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
10. 19 Guntas in Sy No. 68/1 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
11. 39 Guntas in Sy No. 68/3 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
12. 8 Guntas in Sy No. 65/4 in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
13. 5 Guntas. in Sy No. 65/6A in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
14. 7 Guntas in Sy No. 65/6B in the name of Deepu Sasidharan
15. 3 Acres in Sy No. 112 in the name of Soma Praveen
16. 5.08 Guntas in Sy No. 112/2 in the name of Purandhar Varma Padmaraju
17. 5.04 Guntas in Sy No. 110 in the name of Konduru Hemanth Kumar
18. 5.08 Guntas in Sy No.110 in the name of Kondr.rru Hemanth Kumar
19. 5.04 Guntas in Sy No. 110 in the name of P Arun Kumar
20. 5.04 Guntas in Sy No. 110 in the name of Ramakrishna Rayabarapu
21. 5.04 Guntas in Sy No. 110 in the name of Ramakrishna Rayabarapu
22. 6 Guntas in Sy No. 110 in the name of Chalamarthi Suresh
23. 5.04 Guntas in Sy No. 110 in the name of Chalamarthi Suresh
24. 5.04 Guntas in Sy No. 110 in the name of Chalamarrhi Suresh
25. 6 Guntas in Sy No. 110 in the name of Purandhara Varma Padmaraju
26. 5.08 Guntas in Sy No. 110 in the name of Konduru Hemanth Kumar

Following Lands and Sy Nos situated at Madinayakanahalli. Mandikal Hobli, Chikkaballapur Dist

27. 7.08 Guntas in Sy No. 42/1 in the name of Konduru Hemanth Kumar
28. 5.04 Guntas in Sy No. 1/1 in the name of Purandhara Varma Padmaraju
29. 5.12 Guntas in Sy No. 1/1 in the name of Chamarthi Suresh
30. 2 Acres 4 Guntas in Sy No. 32/1 in the name of P Arun Kumar.

Following Lands and Sy Nos. situated at Sadashivanahalli. Gudibande Taluk, Chikkaballapur Dist

31. 2 Acres 36 Guntas in Sy No. 20/2 in the name of Purandhara Varma Padmaraju
32. 28.05 Guntas in Sy No. 18/2 in the name of Kavitha P C

Our clients reliably came to know that the said nominees of Mrs Rayabarapu Kamakshi Jyosna as stated herein above along with her are negotiating with third parties for sale of above said property, suppressing the pen'dency of the Arbitration suit, and the status quo order passed by the Arbitration Tribunal. The public in general is hereby CAUTIONED not to deal with the said persons in respect of the above said property in any manner. In spite of it, if any person(s) deal with them, he/they will be doing so entirely at his/their own costs and risks and our client will not be responsible for the same.
Place : Hyderabad.
Date : 25.02.2026

Sd/-Mayur Mundra, Advocate
102, First Floor, K.G.N Plaza, Himayatnagar Street No 8,
Hyderabad 500029. **Ph No: 9849013595** | mayur@dmaadvocates.com
info@dmaadvocates.com| www.dmaadvocates.com

CONNECT

KARNATAKA'S BIGGEST OG SEERE UTSAVA 2.0 IS BACK
100000 + Sarees 20,000 + Designs 2000 + Varieties
MYSORE SILKS Weaver's OG Seere Utsava By Sulakshmi Silks
Lowest Price Guaranteed Direct Weaver's Prices
100 YEARS OF TRUSTED LEGACY
SULAKSHMI SILKS
18th to 28th FEB 2026
11 AM TO 9 PM
SIGNATURE SILK SAREE COLLECTIONS
• Pure Mysore Silk • Kanjeevaram • Patola
• Banaras • Uppada • Paihani • Chanderi
• Gadwal • Ilkal • Pochampally • Muga
• Bhagalpur • Ikat • Jamdhani • Arni
• Gajji • Bandhani • Cotton Classics
• Crepe • Bangalore Silk & More
Sri Suryodaya Kalyana Mantapa
West of Chord Road, Vijayanagar
99727 18898 | 96631 27606
93531 38343 | 98863 06643

UGADI OFFER !
HOME UPS
SYNERGY TECH
₹ 17,500/- Inclusive of all taxes
1 KVA UPS + 150 AH Amaron Quanta Tubular Battery + Trolley
9538773551, 9538097448 | www.synergytechups.in

East Corp acquires 1,707 sqm land to widen ITPL Main Road

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru East City Corporation has taken possession of about 1,707.51 square metres of relinquished properties along ITPL Main Road in line with the Revised Master Plan, which proposes widening the road to 150 feet.

This is significant as private property owners generally refuse to part with land.

Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh said in a press note that a dedicated team of engineers, town planning officials and surveyors was formed to take possession of the land reserved for road-widening at the time of issuing building plans.

The properties belonged to Regulus Developer (HSBC Bank), Elegant Properties (Ozone Icon), and Trifect Developer.

"The acquired properties now belong to the Bengaluru East City Corporation and are reserved for road-widening. To prevent encroachment, signboards have been installed at the sites.

"Until work begins, the feasibility of temporarily using the land for pay-and-park facilities to ease traffic congestion will be examined," the commissioner said.

The East Corporation has also formed a road restoration committee under the additional commissioner to ensure quality restoration of roads cut by various agencies for development and public service works.

The committee includes officials from the corporation's Engineering Department, Bescom, KPTCL, BWSSB, GAIL, Bengaluru Traffic Police, and OFC operators.

The corporation has also formed a separate committee for a comprehensive urban flood action plan, as Mahadevapura and KR Puram have a history of flooding during heavy rain.

This committee comprises officials from the corporation's Engineering Department, KRIDL, Minor Irrigation Department, police, South Western Railway, Public Works Department, Bescom, District Disaster Management Authority, and other departments concerned.

GBA chief to hold public interaction meetings in all five corporations

BENGALURU, DHNS: M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), will hold a public interaction with residents of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation from 2.30 pm to 5 pm on Thursday on the 10th floor of the Public Utility Building on MG Road.

Public interaction meetings are being organised across the Bengaluru Central, East, West, North and South City Corporations to directly receive complaints and petitions from citizens and initiate action to resolve local issues.

Maheshwar Rao

"During these meetings, grievances related to infrastructure, roads, sanitation, drainage and other civic issues will be heard personally, and officials concerned will be instructed to take prompt action," the GBA said in a statement.

The respective city corporation commissioners, development and revenue commissioners, joint commissioners, heads of various departments and other officials will be present at the meetings.

Rao urged citizens, organisations and residents' welfare associations to attend the public interactions with their grievances and petitions and make use of the opportunity.

Meeting schedule

Bengaluru Central City Corporation: February 26; 10th floor, Public Utility Building; 2.30 pm–5 pm

Bengaluru East City Corporation: March 3; East Corporation Commissioner's Office, RHB Colony, Whitefield, opposite Phoenix Marketcity; 2.30 pm–5 pm

Bengaluru West City Corporation: March 5; West Corporation Commissioner's Office, IPP Centre, opposite Chowdaiah Memorial Hall; 2.30 pm–5 pm

Bengaluru North City Corporation: March 10; North Corporation Commissioner's Office, Byatarayanapura, Amruthahalli Main Road; 2.30 pm–5 pm

Bengaluru South City Corporation: March 12; South Corporation Commissioner's Office, 9th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar; 2.30 pm–5 pm

Bengaluru, Frankfurt airports sign pact to boost cargo links

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Frankfurt Airport at Air Cargo India to strengthen cargo connectivity between South India and Europe.

Under the agreement, both airports will establish a structured framework focused on joint trade lane analytics, digital corridor development, pharma integrity standards and knowledge exchange to improve visibility, cut dwell time and deliver predictable service levels for cargo stakeholders, Bangalore International Airport Limited, which operates KIA, said.

The partnership comes as the recently concluded EU–India Free Trade Agreement is expected to spur bilateral trade and air cargo flows, BIAL said.

In 2025, KIA handled over 43.82 million passengers and processed 5,20,985 metric tonnes of cargo. It is India's leading airport for perishable cargo.

In the same year, Frankfurt Airport served 63.2 million passengers and handled about 2.1 million metric tonnes of cargo.

(Extreme right) Girish Nair, Chief Operating Officer, Bangalore International Airport Limited, with dignitaries during the signing of the MoU.
PHOTO: BIAL

TOURS & TRAVEL

Travel

8 DAYS Kshmir Vaishnodevi. 13 Days Chardham Yatra. 7 Days Kashi Ayodhya. 7 Days Amarnath Yatra. Nandi Holidays Banglore Mob: 9740228186, 9035513332

BUSINESS

Business to Business

Business

ಚಿನ್ನವನ್ನು ಸಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಕಬೇಕೇ?
ಚಿಂತಪಡಬೇಡಿ, ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ನಾವು ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ.
ಹಳೆಯ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಆಭರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ...
ತಕ್ಷಣ ಹಣ
ಸಿ ಜೆ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಕಂಪನಿ
ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ – ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
Call: 88844 57700
Email:cjgoldblr@gmail.com

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, MANJUNATH aged about 36 years, Residing at No.8,3rdBlock,Magadi Road Police Quarters,Magadi Road,Bengaluru-560023. Declare that My Daughter Name TRISHIKA METI (Aadhar Card) was wrongly mentioned as SNEHA in Sukanya Samrudhi Yojane. I request concerned authorities to change My daughter name as TRISHIKA METI in your record. TRISHIKA METI and SNEHA belong to the same person vide affidavit Dated: 25.11.2025 before Notary G. B.Turamari, Bengaluru

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, B. GURU RAJA RAO, S/o B.Gopinatha Rao, I have lost **registered Sale deed vide Document No.KRI-1-07291-2017-18, Book-1, of Property No.39/1, Katha No. 53/39/1,** of Gundur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, While shifiing residentce, If found please contact, **8050967584**

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Industrial And Factory

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE, in KIADB Allotted Corner Plot, 50000 sqft, Facing 150 ft Rd, 500mts from STRR, 300mts from the Brigade WTC Devanahalli, 20mins from Kempegowda International Airport. Ct: 9677403235

RENT, PEENYA, 50,000 Land with 9000 ACC Shed. 200 KVA. Rs. 20/- sqft. 9590909945, 9844083019

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Industrial & Factory

Tumkur Road

SALE 20 Acres Industrial Zone Land, 100 feet Road. Suitable for Industry/ Warehouse/ Commercial. 9141326819

EDUCATION

To Place your Classified Ads Contact:
9845114560

Vijayendra slams Congress for not filling vacancies as per poll promise

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP state chief B Y Vijayendra on Wednesday slammed the ruling Congress government for not acting as per its electoral promise of filling vacancies in departments.

Addressing a press meet, he slammed the Congress for not fulfilling its promise of filling vacancies within a year of coming to power.

"The CM and DCM had promised in their manifesto to fill all vacant government posts within one year. When Rahul Gandhi came to Belagavi, he had stated that if the Congress came to power, 2.5 lakh vacant posts would be filled. But the CM seems to have forgotten everything. Due to the 'chair war' between the CM and the DCM, they have no time to find solutions to problems."

Referring to protests in Dharwad and those in Bengaluru, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Bidar and so on, he accused the government of being in 'Kumbhakarna-like sleep' and 'lacking' the will to create employment.

"Despite protests, they have not even uttered a word about it," he said. He accused the government of blaming previous BJP government for all problems.

Job logjam: Delay in implementing internal quota for SCs another factor

Expanding welfare schemes, fiscal constraints slow recruitments

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah government finds itself walking a tightrope as the five guarantees have once again come under public scrutiny amid the massive protests by job aspirants.

The ruling Congress was hoping to woo the youth with the 'Yuva Nidhi' guarantee scheme - a monthly unemployment benefit of Rs 3,000 to new graduates and Rs 1,500 to new diploma holders. But the huge backlog of vacancies and slow-paced recruitment left the youth fuming and the government embarrassed.

Fiscal constraints and lack of political will to implement internal quota for scheduled castes have slowed down recruitments, rue officials noting that the burden of salaries, expanding welfare commitments and reservation implications had not only slowed down filling up of vacancies, but also discouraged successive governments from increasing sanctioned strength.

The sanctioned posts across 45 departments are 7.74 lakh (11.73 lakh including boards and corporations).

Members of All Karnataka State Students' Association, job aspirants and students take out a protest march seeking jobs in Dharwad on Tuesday. PTI PHOTO

Add to this, interest on loans (Rs 45,600 crore), cost of five guarantees (Rs 51,034 crore), & SCP/TSP (Rs 42,018 crore), the budget has little room for additional expenditure.

Siddaramaiah accused BJP leaders of "misleading" students in Dharwad.

"Recruitment irregularities during BJP rule (between 2019 and 2023) contributed to the crisis," he said.

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra, countering the claim, said, "We were told in the Assembly that only 8,157 recruitments had been completed in the last three years and not 40,000. The government accommodates party workers and legislators in state-run corporations with ministerial rank, while vacancies remain unfilled".

Listing recruitments done during its tenure, BJP said it had initiated action to fill up 30,000 vacancies in a single year (2022), across departments - education (15,000 teachers), health (1,048), excise(1,100), KMF (487), PU lecturers (778) energy (1,492 engineers) and home (3,484 constables), among others.

In 2021, 250 posts in the state reserve police and 5,465 posts in horticulture were filled up, it added.

The delay in implementing internal quota for SCs has halted recruitments, too.

The high court restricted the government from issuing new recruitment notifications based on enhanced SC/ST quota (as total quota crosses 50% reservation cap).

The court stayed the Aug 25 notification implementing 6-6-5 reservation formula, calling it "arbitrary", allowing ongoing recruitments to continue. But appointments are subject to final outcome of case, it said.

Siddu targets BJP over jobs

MYSURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that there has been a slight delay in recruitments due to an internal reservation issue.

"We will definitely recruit as we have promised," he told reporters at the airport on Wednesday.

"Why did the job aspirants keep BJP leaders away from their protest meet in Dharwad? Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to give two crore jobs per year. How many jobs did they create in the past 11 years? How many jobs did the BJP create when it was in power?" he questioned.

Siddaramaiah said the BJP leaders did not do any development when they were in power. "What moral right do they have to question? They have made it a habit to protest," he said.

About protests related to the use of Urdu in a government invitation of the health department, he said, "We are not appeasing anyone."

"We were told in the Assembly that only 8,157 recruitments had been completed in the last three years and not 40,000. The government accommodates party workers and legislators in state-run corporations with ministerial rank, while vacancies remain unfilled.

B Y Vijayendra
BJP state president

Padayatra to B'luru if no jobs in a week

HUBBALLI, DHNS: A day after leading a protest by government job aspirants in Dharwad, the All Karnataka State Students' Association (AKSSA) has given an ultimatum to the government to issue the calendar of events for recruitment to 56,000 posts 'approved' by the finance department within a week, failing which it threatened that thousands of job aspirants will go on a padayatra to Bengaluru.

"A decision for recruitment should be taken in the Cabinet meeting. If the calendar of events for recruitments is not issued in a week, a massive padayatra will be taken out. As the reservation matter is before court, the government can file an interlocutory application to recruit 94% of vacant posts now, leaving 6% of posts for recruitment after court's decision," said AKSSA president Kanthakumar.

'False statements'

He charged that this government did not fill up even 5,000 posts and gave only false statements.

The central government is recruiting through SSC and UPSC, but the number of vacancies in state government has reached 2.8 lakh, causing serious hardships for aspirants, Kanthakumar told reporters here.

Deputy leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Arvind Bellad, who along with other BJP leaders, had participated in Tuesday's protest, charged that the Congress government tried to suppress job aspirants through the police, by denying permission for holding their protest.

Shaken by the protest by gen-Z, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that 40,000 posts would be filled up, though he did not respond to previous protests and meetings, he said.

No measure was taken though the high court had suggested to go for 94% of recruitments, till reservation matter for the remaining 6% was settled.

"This government is just playing politics or it may have gone bankrupt. The chief minieter should not tell lies and not give wrong figures about recruitments," the BJP leader said.

'CM lying'

"As Siddaramaiah holds finance portfolio also, he should ensure the department gives approaval to fill up all vacant posts. But he is telling lies about recruitments and blaming previous government. Rahul Gandhi cannot become a youth leader merely by wearing a T-shirt. He should tell Siddaramaiah to fill up vacancies," Bellad said.

"The BJP will fight for the students inside the House also. If the demands are not met, massive protests may take place in other major cities too," he said.

'Action against protesters who clashed with cops'

DHARWAD, DHNS: A day after Dharwad witnessed a massive protest staged by job aspirants, Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar said action would be initiated against those agitators who clashed with police.

He told reporters here on Wednesday, "Activists of Akhila Karnataka State Students' Association clashed with police and deviated from route they were allowed to take. They blocked Jubilee Circle."

The Police Commissioner said the five drones and more than 20 private videographers had recorded the protest. "We also have footage from CCTV cameras. We will ascertain whether law was violated and initiate action," he added.

Although barricades had been placed at four to five spots to ensure the protesters stuck to the assigned route, some of them reportedly pushed past the barricades and even obstructed police from discharging their duty, said Kumar. "In the scuffle, some cops sustained minor injuries," he added.

"We found some of them had participated in protests where violations were reported. There is evidence of water bottles being thrown during protest. But no cases registered so far," he said.

The commissioner said permission had been granted for BJP's protest rally from Srinagar Circle to Michigan Compound.

Permission had not been granted for AKSSA's protest, said Shashi Kumar. "They joined protest alongside BJP," said Kumar.

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

1) CB_AL_4825_CHASSIS YOM – - Reg No – KA28AA9266
2) CB_HYUNDAI_R_210_7 YOM – 2024 Reg No – -
3) TATA SFC 712 GOODS YOM – - Reg No – KA597228
4) MAHINDRA_AND_MAHINDRA - MAHINDRA BOLERO PICK-UP YOM – 2022 Reg No – KA13D3848
5) TATA MOTORS LTD. – CB TATA ACE MEGA YOM – 2018 Reg No – KA34B8489
6) CB_BACKHOE_LOADER _BULL_HD76_BULL YOM – - Reg No – KA06MB5276
7) CB_Ashok Leyland Dost GOODS YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA52B8894
8) CB_MAH_JEETO YOM – -2022 Reg No – KA13D3080
9) CB_ASHOK_LEYLAND_GP4825 COWL_CHASSIS_GOODS YOM – 2022 Reg No – KA34C5309
10) CB_EICHER_PRO_6055 _TRACTOR_TRAILER YOM – - Reg No – KA34D1344
11) CB_MAHINDRA_BOLERO _MAXXCITY_PICKUP YOM – - Reg No – KA37B8492

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION i.e. from 26.02.2026
(Please note that closing Auction date would not be a Weekly off / Holiday)

BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.,
22, MG ROAD, BANGALORE
KARNATAKA – 560001
OR
Contact: Arunlaxman Kokare
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Contact / 080 - 61564249

GOVERNMENT KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(53E): 2025-26:JE-2 Dated: 24.02.2026

SHORTERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P. Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 33108, 31136, 31026 **under the Head of Account 5054-80-190-0-01-132 - Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited - under Capital Expenditure.** And Indent No: 33407 **under the Head of Account CMIDP.** The Last date for receipt of **tender: 07.03.2026** upto 17.00 Hours.

In the above work lowest cost of estimate is Rs.100.00 Lakhs & highest cost of estimate is Rs. 150.00 Lakhs. Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document KW-3 & KW-4. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPR/DK/MPL/1668/25-26

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, Zone-1, No. 2152/20, Defence Colony, 9th Main, 'D' Block, Sahakarnagara, BNCC Office, Bengaluru - 560092.

No:BNCC-Z1/EE/BTP/KPPP/PR/05/2025-26 Date: 25-02-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, Zone-1, BNCC, Bengaluru for the works mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BNCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations. **(Standard Tender Document RFP)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Consultancy Services for Preparation of DPR for the Work of Providing Gallery & Other Works for Sahakaranagara Play Grounds at Sahakaranagara, Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency. **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
2	Consultancy Services for Preparation of DPR for the Work of Construction of Outdoor Swimming Pool, Bus Bay and Development of Parks at CQAL Layout, Kodigehalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency. **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,00,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **05-03-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, No.2152/20, Defence Colony, BWSSB Tank Road, Sahakarnagara Office, Bengaluru - 560092. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **11-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **13-03-2026 after 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Byatarayanapura Division, Zone-1, BNCC.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ –577 005.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192–262527 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:–dcfdvg@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಅಸಂ/ದಾವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಎವ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–02–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿ ಮುಂದುವರೆದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಾದ ನೆಡುತೋಪು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ನೆಡುತೋಪು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ಸಸಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಸಿಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಮುಂಗಡವಾಗಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ:23–02–2026 ರಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿ, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–03–2026ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 01:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದಿನಾಂಕ 05–03–2026ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರೂ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 13–03–2026ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 01:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿಬಂಧನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/777/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY (AWES CAMPUS)
Nagareshwara Nagenahalli, Post Kothnaur, Bangalore – 560 077
Web : www. aifd.edu.in and www. aihmctbangalore.edu.in

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

1. AWES Campus, Bengaluru-77, invites Tender documents from reputed Caterers/Vendors for **"Provision of Catering Services at AWES Campus, N Nagenahalli, Kothanur – Post, Bengaluru-560 077".**
2. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for detailed Scope of Work is available in our web site **www.aifd.edu.in.** and **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in**
3. **Contact Pers – Mr Karthikeyan R, Mob No 8549043631**

ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY (AWES CAMPUS)
Nagareshwara Nagenahalli, Post Kothnaur, Bangalore – 560 077
Web : www. aifd.edu.in and www. aihmctbangalore.edu.in

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

1. AWES Campus, Bengaluru-77, invites quotations from Authorities Dealers/ Vendors of Bengaluru for **"Operation and Maintenance of 100 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at AWES Campus, N Nagenahalli, Kothanur Post, Bengaluru-560 077".**
2. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for detailed Scope of Work is available in our web site **www.aifd.edu.in.** and **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in**
3. **Contact Pers – Dr Thomas Mathew, Mob No 9448050295**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr(Op)ZB/SEE(O)/AE-1/F-429&430/2025-26/10840-41 & 10842-43 Date:23.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works;

I) Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/TK-03 Call-2, on **Combined package** for **Work-1:** Providing intermediate tower between T.Nos:06-09 in existing 66kV Jalamangala-Melehalli SC line on DC towers due to waterlogged at tower No.08 near Thimmasandra village, Ramanagara Town using 66kV Narrow based tower with Coyote ACSR conductor in Operations division, Kanakapura **on Total Turnkey basis** including supply of all matching materials /equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/ equipments, testing and commissioning.

Work-2: Providing intermediate tower to increase the vertical clearance for existing 66kV Kanakapura-Chikenahalli-Channapatna SC line (proposed 220/66KV MCMV line to Kothipura) between T.Nos:43-44 near Hunasemarradoddi village using 220kV Narrow based tower with COYOTE ACSR conductor (Modified Design of 220kV DC Tower of VTP) in Operations division, Kanakapura (Tower will be supplied by KPTCL) **on Partial Turnkey basis** including supply of all matching materials /equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/ equipments, testing and commissioning.

Work-3: Providing intermediate tower to increase the vertical clearance of existing 66kV Kothipura-Ramanagara SC line (proposed 220/66KV MCMV line to Kothipura) between T.Nos:09-10 at Ramanagara Town using 66kV KPTCL designed Narrow based tower with COYOTE ACSR conductor in Operations division, Kanakapura **on Total Turnkey basis** including supply of all matching materials/equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning.

Work-4: Providing intermediate tower to increase the vertical clearance of existing 66kV Maralwadi LILO line between T.Nos:08-09 near Hucchegowdanadoddi using 66kV KPTCL designed Narrow based tower with Coyote ACSR conductor in Operations division, Kanakapura **on Total Turnkey basis** including supply of all matching materials/equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning.

II) Enquire No. KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/TK-08 Call-2 for **Combined Package** for **a)** Upgradation of 66kV Coyote ACSR bus by Drake Bus with suitable hardware at 66/11kV Akkurmole sub-station in Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District **on Total Turnkey basis** including supply of all materials equipment and erection (including Civil works) of all materials/ equipments, testing and commissioning.

b) Replacement of 2 Nos. of 11kV PCVCB to MCVCB switchgears at 66/11kV Akkurmole sub-station in Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District **on Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all materials (excluding 11kV Switchgear) equipment and erection (including Civil works) of all materials/ equipments, testing and commissioning.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject Enquiry in the KPP portal can be obtained by logging into KPPP website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** OR KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karanataka.gov.in** or click on hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** on or after **28.02.2026.** Any other details can be had from the **Office of the under signed**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Ele.)
Transmission(Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1 3 :Diferent Head : 2025-26/5352
Dated : 25-02-2026

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division, Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of **09** work of total amount of Rs **135.25** Lakh (Min estimate amount: Rs- **1.15** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **64.10** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW-1, 2 and 3, through http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/

Work Indent No: Part-1 - 33839
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **05-03-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **06-03-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical/Financial Bid Date : **07-03-2026**

Work Indent No: Part-2 - 33406, 29553/Call-2
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **03-03-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **04-03-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical/Financial Bid Date : **05-03-2026**

Work Indent No: Part-3 - 32865, 22570
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **12-03-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **13-03-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical/Financial Bid Date : **16-03-2026**

Work Indent No: Part-4 - 33905, 33411-ST, 32888, 31331
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **16-03-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **17-03-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical/Financial Bid Date : **18-03-2026**
Opening of Financial Bid Date : **19-03-2026**

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/680/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010.
No:EE/SD/TEND/03/2025-26 Date: 25.02.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Only through KPP Portal)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites short term tenders from eligible contractors registered or equivalent registration in BBMP or CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the services detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing and Repairing Rain Water Harvesting System in Parks at West Zone. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 39.00, EMD (in ₹): 78,000/-.**
2.	Repair and Maintenance of Building at Markets in Malleshwaram Constituency. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 60,000/-.**
3.	Repair and Maintenance of Crematorium and Burial Ground in Malleshwaram Constituency. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 48.00, EMD (in ₹): 96,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded through KPP Portal from: **26.02.2026 at 4:00 p.m. onwards. (2)** Date and Time for Pre-bid meeting on: **02.03.2026 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **05.03.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **07.03.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Opening of Financial Bid: **09.03.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (if possible).**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC.

Regional Dak Adalat today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, will host a regional 'Dak Adalat' on February 26.

It will focus on postal complaints and will be held at GPO Building, Raj Bhavan Road, in the city at 4 pm.

The grievance redressal forum is open to complaints regarding postal matters from Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu, Mandya, Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, and Udupi districts.

The grievances can be shared ahead of the event by mail to pg.karsk@indiapost.gov.in

Teacher 'takes gold' from class 10 boy with exam help promise

DHARWAD, DHNS: A teacher allegedly cheated a class 10 student by collecting gold ornaments from him, on the pretext of helping the student in the SSLC examination.

The teacher at KE Board's Vidyaranya high school here has been accused of taking nearly 80 gram of gold ornaments from the student of the same school.

According to the complaint, the teacher told the student that he was facing financial difficulties and persuaded the student to bring money or gold ornaments from home, assuring that the valuables would be returned later.

It is alleged that the student brought around 80 gram of gold ornaments from his house.

The matter came to light when the student's parents discovered that the ornaments were missing. Following the incident, the student reportedly became mentally distressed.

However, the teacher denied the allegations made by the student and his parents.

While admitting that he had taken a small amount of money from the student, he denied receiving any gold ornaments. A case has been registered with the Dharwad town police station.

NCERT withdraws chapter on 'judicial corruption' after CJI rebuke

NCERT, from Page 1

NCERT Chairman Dinesh Prasad Saklani did not respond to calls and messages on the issue.

Government sources said that while the NCERT is an autonomous body, the officials responsible for adding chapters should have applied their minds.

The book pegs the approximate number of pending cases in the Supreme Court at 81,000, in High Courts at 62.40 lakh, and in district and subordinate courts at 4.70 crore.

It highlights the judiciary's internal accountability mechanisms and refers to the established procedure for receiving complaints through the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System.

According to the book, over 1,600 complaints were received through this mechanism between 2017 and 2021.

The textbook also quotes former Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, who in July 2025 said that instances of corruption and misconduct within the judiciary had a negative impact on public confidence.

"However, the path to rebuilding this trust lies in the swift, decisive and transparent action taken to address and resolve these issues... Transparency and accountability are democratic virtues," he is quoted as saying in the book.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the matter registered as 'In Re: Social Science Text Book for Grade 8 (Part 2) Published by NCERT and Ancillary Issues' on February 26.

Stir brings silk yarn reeling unit in T Narsipur to grinding halt

Output of silk sarees at Mysuru factory likely to take a hit

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

The Geographical Indication (GI) tag Mysore silk saree lovers, who queue up with tokens near 13 showrooms of the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) every day, may not get the heritage sarees soon, as 1,092 employees across all three KSIC units are on strike and have stopped production.

All 192 employees of the T Narsipur raw silk yarn reeling unit have stopped production from Saturday. From Wednesday, 900 employees of silk weaving units - 700 in Mysuru and 200 in Channapatna - stopped weaving sarees.

They are all protesting near the T Narsipur KSIC filature unit.

KSIC MD Zehera Naseem and the Sericulture Department secretary, R Girish, visited and tried to convince them to resume production. However, the employees have decided to continue the protest until the issue is resolved by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Zehera Naseem said, "We have a stock of 2,500 sarees. At least 1,500 sarees are sold per day in KSIC showrooms - five in Mysuru, six in Bengaluru, one each in Channapatna and Hyderabad. If the protest continues, we will exhaust the stock in two days".

The employees of all three units of KSIC protest near the KSIC filature unit at T Narsipur in Mysuru district on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

"We have brought the issue to the notice of Sericulture Minister K Venkatesh. The minister and the secretary are discussing the issue with the chief minister about retaining the land of the T Narsipur unit," Zehera said.

The employees are protesting, fearing the closure of the KSIC mother unit at T Narsipur, as its five-acre land is taken over by the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports for the construction of a stadium.

The officials said the KSIC unit at T Narsipur processes 1,500 to 2,000 kg of cocoons to 250 to 300 kg of silk yarn per day. Also, 319 looms - 229 in Mysuru and 50 in Channapatna - weave 2,200 metres of Mysore Silk per day and the final product is 400 sarees in the Mysuru unit.

With a buffer stock of silk yarn for a month, the employees at Mysuru and Channapatna wove sarees from Saturday. Now, fearing the loss of livelihood, with the closure of the mother unit, the employees have stopped weaving, they said.

The employees said they fear that the KSIC unit in T Narsipur will be closed as the stadium cannot exist next to 5tph (tonne per hour) and 2tph boilers or a dump yard of cinder ash generated by burning coal; there won't be a way to transport 5 tonnes per day of coal. The pipeline from the river passes through this buffer of 5 acre land. So, when there is no raw material, Mysore Silk sarees cannot be woven, they said.

Meanwhile, the members of Parisarakkaagi Naavu organisation rushed to T Narsipur and extended support to the employees.

Of 2.85L govt job vacancies....

Vacancies, From Page 1

The group-C positions include those of junior engineers, first division assistants, second division assistants and other technical roles like lab technicians and inspectors.

Even among those set to retire in March, most are from group-C. The Group-C posts play an important role as they include clerical and technical ones. Interestingly, even primary and high school teachers come under this category.

Moreover, in the 100-odd Boards and Corporations, a total of 1,01,420 posts are vacant, while the vacancies in state-run universities are 14,677. Taken together, the total vacancies could cross 4 lakhs.

"The government must provide opportunities for the young generation to work in the government setup and these youngsters must get trained under experienced people. Though an announcement was made in the manifesto to fill 1 lakh vacancies every year, nothing has been done in the last three years. Even the previous governments also didn't do anything," Shadakshari said.

According to him, when the population of the state was 3.5 crore, the workforce was 7 lakh. But now, the population is around 7 crore, it is down to 5 lakh.

"Along with the population, popular schemes have also increased. But the necessary workforce is not available."

KEEPING THE FAITH AFLOAT

Tens of thousands of devotees from across Karnataka and the neighbouring states take part in the biennial rathotsava of Goddess Marikamba Devi in Sirsi, Uttara Kannada, on Wednesday. PHOTO: INDRAKUMAR B DASTENAVAR

Boseraju proposes organising BRICS quantum summit

BENGALURU, DHNS: Calling for stronger global collaboration in emerging technologies, Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology N S Boseraju called upon BRICS nations to work together to accelerate the development and application of quantum technologies.

Speaking at a high-level bilateral meeting at Vidhana Soudha with a Brazilian delegation led by Brazil's Minister of Management and Innovation in Public Services, Esther Dweck, Boseraju proposed convening a BRICS Quantum Summit to institutionalise co-operation among member countries.

"Other international groupings, such as ASEAN, are already organising dedicated quantum summits. As BRICS nations, we must collaborate to harness quantum technology in areas such as agriculture, pharmaceutical research, water resource management, climate forecasting and flood mitigation. A BRICS quantum summit could serve as a strategic platform to jointly address shared developmental challenges," he said.

The minister noted that Karnataka is home to India's first indigenously built commercial quantum computer. He outlined the government's ambitious roadmap, including the announcement of a $100 million Quantum Innovation Fund and the development of a dedicated Quantum City in Bengaluru.

"Our goal is to build a $20 billion quantum economy by 2035 and generate two lakh jobs in the sector," Boseraju said.

He added that applications of quantum technologies in agriculture, flood management and healthcare were being explored.

4 girl researchers to be feted today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Four girl researchers will be felicitated by the state government during the celebration of National Science Day on Thursday.

The young girls were part of Anveshana, the high school research programme of Bengaluru-based Prayoga Institute of Education Research. All four girls hail from rural and tribal communities. Their research paper was published in Sustainable Chemistry One World (Elsevier). The girls - Kirat Kaur, Yamini, Reshma J V, and Lakshmi G - are from rural and tribal backgrounds who have aimed for something beyond their modest beginnings.

Of these four, some are first-generation learners, pursuing ambitions of this magnitude for the very first time in their families. They were a part of Anveshana 2025.

These students, then high schoolers, had applied for the summer course through their schools and were selected by a panel of in-house researchers at Prayoga and were all set to get felicitated by the department of Science and Technology.

After yrs in limbo, TDR market...

TDR, from Page 1

"People interested in buying DRCs can contact the owners directly. Some states have already built such a platform. We hope to roll it out by March," said Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (IT) of GBA.

The digital marketplace is going to help land losers seek true value for their TDR certificate, which has lost its sheen over the years and more so after the launch of premium FAR certificates. So far, there was little information about the availability of DRCs in the open market, which meant the true cost of DRC was unknown.

In Dec 2024, *DH* had reported that cities, such as Mumbai, Pune and Hyderabad, have already created a digital marketplace for TDRs, and a similar system is missing in Bengaluru, leaving DRC holders at the mercy of middlemen.

Gaza Peace Initiative path for just, durable peace: Modi

Modi, from Page 1

Marking the first-ever speech by an Indian prime minister to the Knesset, Modi showed India's strong resolve to combat terrorism with full force.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and several other senior leaders were among the parliamentarians who attended the event.

"India has also endured the pain of terrorism for a long time. We remember the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and the innocent lives lost, including Israeli citizens. Like you, we have a consistent and uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism, with no double standards," he said.

"Terrorism aims to destabilise societies, to block development, and to erode trust. Countering terrorism requires sustained and coordinated global action, because terror anywhere threatens peace everywhere."

"That is why India supports all efforts that contribute to durable peace and regional stability," he noted.

The prime minister also delved into the evolving situation in the Middle East and noted that Israel had signed the Abraham Accords with a number of countries a few years ago.

New drug, free 108 ambulance for haemophilia patients

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Health Department on Wednesday launched 108 ambulances for prophylactic treatment with the new drug emicizumab for patients suffering from haemophilia.

With the Kusuma Sanjeevini programme, Karnataka has become the second state in South India, after Kerala, to roll out prophylactic treatment for haemophilia.

In Karnataka, 2,621 cases of haemophilia have been registered under the State Blood Cell Programme launched in January 2017. The patients are being treated at government health facilities.

Karnataka has 36 ICHH (Integrated Treatment Centre for Hemoglobinopathies and Haemophilia) daycare centres in all its districts. Beds have been earmarked exclusively for the management of Hemoglobinopathies, with the availability of two trained staff nurses provided under the National Health Mission.

At the daycare centres, free Anti-Haemophilic Factors, Blood Transfusion and Iron Chelating Agents are provided to all patients and regular training is conducted for all treating doctors and nurses of all district hospitals and selected taluk hospitals.

"Patients suffering from haemophilia and other rare diseases will have the support of the Congress government. Do not worry about money. But no one should lose self-confidence," said Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, offering reassurance.

"Providing injections for one patient will cost around Rs 5 lakh per year. Our government has taken steps to bring hope into the lives of those suffering from rare diseases like haemophilia and to strengthen their future. We are the first in the country to extend such support," he added.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "As per the Technical Expert Committee recommendation, the state has rolled out this ambitious programme for prophylaxis. We have approved Rs 42.55 crore, including Rs 17 crore, for the new drug. These drugs have already been procured and supplied to all district hospitals."

Row over Urdu invitation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP on Wednesday accused the government of publishing an invitation in Urdu for a government programme by the Health Department.

On Wednesday, 108 ambulances were launched for prophylaxis treatment with the new drug emicizumab for patients suffering from haemophilia.

Sharing screenshots of the invitation for the event in Urdu, the BJP said on X (formerly Twitter): "The anti-state Congress government is even neglecting Kannada for the sake of appeasement. CM Siddaramaiah and DCM D K Shivakumar, Karnataka's administrative language is Kannada or Urdu?"

Issuing a strong counter to the BJP, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao wondered if the BJP was so dumb as not to differentiate between an official invitation and a newspaper advertisement.

"The BJP friends, who are referring to an advertisement and saying 'anti-state' should look at the number of advertisements they have given during their tenure, including those of the Vishwa Guru. Did advertisements not get published in Urdu papers when B S Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai were the chief ministers?"

Pre-schools' body wants new rules simplified, re-drafted

BENGALURU, DHNS

The new regulations put in place for pre-schools could potentially lead to 4.5 lakh women being rendered unemployed, and could possibly result in the closure of 25,000 pre-schools across the state, warned Karnataka Council of Pre-Schools, which has sought the Minister of School Education and Literacy's intervention to simplify and re-draft the rules.

Interacting with reporters on Wednesday, representatives of the council urged the state government to keep the rules in abeyance. The mandated enforcement of the new rules was 'impossible' said the council representatives. "If the regulations are not immediately re-drafted, it could trigger an unprecedented socio-economic crisis, leaving large numbers of women unemployed, and in turn, leaving millions of families clutching a crushing financial burden," said the council's members.

The new regulations require even those institutions functioning out of homes in residential areas to meet the 30-year lease rule. Pruthvi Banavasi, the council secretary, said, "No landlord in the market will ever fulfil this demand, thereby making it impossible for 90% of the schools to function. The other rule requiring each classroom to be spread across an area of at least 18ftX20ft too is impractical since it ignores the secure and homely environment that pre-schools in residential areas provide."

Concerns galore

- Mandating play homes to ensure conversion of their property to 'educational land' – an unviable proposition, both legally and financially, for small-time educators
- Rigid rules on area requirement that are impossible to meet for most play schools in residential layouts, which effectively outlaws small, affordable micro-schools
- Restricting access to the official registration portal within the premises of the BEO's offices, plunging educators in a state of uncertainty and in fear of harassment
- Closure of neighbourhood pre-schools constitutes a direct attack on the economy
- Lack of affordable childcare institutions would compel large numbers of women in the state to quit jobs to look after their children, reversing the progress achieved through years of female participation in the work force
- Closure of standalone schools could result in a 500% increase in fees since the new rules skew the field in favour of large K-12 institutions

Retd BBMP chief engineer found hanging

Engineer, from Page 1

About 15 days ago, CBI officials had even searched his residence and seized certain documents.

Parameshwaraiah retired about three years ago after serving as chief engineer in the solid waste management division of the BBMP, which has since been replaced by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

A well-placed source told *DH* that while the Income Tax Department had conducted a raid on Parameshwaraiah in 2021, the specific case relating to disproportionate assets was later transferred to the CBI.

Subsequently, the CBI sought the Karnataka government's consent under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act to investigate the matter.

The CBI registered the FIR on January 30 after the state government issued its consent order on April 7, 2025. The order was communicated to the CBI on November 20, 2025.

On Wednesday, an application was moved before the CBI court on Parameshwaraiah's behalf seeking directions to defreeze the bank accounts held by him and his wife. The court adjourned the hearing on this application to hear the agency's response.

The police found a purported one-page death note at the scene, which stated that no one should be held responsible for his death and that he was taking the extreme step due to personal reasons.

Based on a complaint by Mahalakshmi, the Koramangala police registered a case of unnatural death and launched an investigation.

A police officer said two of the couple's sons live abroad and that the family had not levelled any allegations against anyone.

(If you are experiencing thoughts of self-harm and suicide, please reach out to the 14416 TeleMANAS helpline for support.)

RTI Act not the right tool to seek spouse's I-T returns: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The RTI Act is not the appropriate mechanism for obtaining income tax returns of a spouse in maintenance proceedings, the High Court of Karnataka held in a recent judgement.

"It is declared that income tax returns, assessment particulars and related financial details of an assessee constitute personal information within the meaning of Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, and are exempt from disclosure under the said provision unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants disclosure," Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted, partly allowing a petition filed by the Income Tax Department.

"It is further held that the appropriate mechanism for obtaining income tax returns and financial records of a spouse in maintenance proceedings is through the competent court adjudicating the maintenance claim, and not through the RTI Act."

The I-T Department had challenged the Central Information Commission's order dated April 12, 2019, which directed it to furnish the information sought by a woman from Mumbai. She had sought details of her husband's income tax returns from 2012 to 2017, including tax paid, and the name and address of the bank(s) connected with his financial records.

The department contended that the information sought constitutes private and personal information relating to her husband. It also submitted that the assessee furnished this information to the dept exclusively for assessment and compliance under the income tax law. Further, disclosing one spouse's I-T returns to the other neither arises from any public activity nor advances any public interest.

After perusing the provisions under both the Income Tax and the RTI Acts, the court said the latter was a legislation designed to promote transparency and accountability in the working of public authorities. It is not a substitute for discovery or production of documents in civil or criminal proceedings, it added.

After first-time MLAs, Congress MLCs seek at least five Cabinet berths

Upper House members point to their vast experience & expertise

BENGALURU, DHNS

Close on the heels of first-time MLAs petitioning the Congress high command for Cabinet berths, at least 21 Congress MLCs have urged AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and other senior party leaders to allot at least five Cabinet berths to members of the Upper House in the state legislature. They have opined that inducting MLCs into the Cabinet during the next reshuffle would strengthen the party, besides ensuring a balance between both the Houses.

Incidentally, competition for positions in the Cabinet is increasing against the backdrop of the power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar. Given that the party leadership has maintained a guarded silence on the power-sharing pact, uncertainty continues to linger over the issue.

As of now, N S Boseraju is the solitary MLC in the 34-member state Cabinet. The resignations of B Nagendra and K N Rajanna, meanwhile, has created two vacancies.

Formed in 1907, the Council boasts 75 members, of whom 25 members represent local bodies, and as many represent the Assembly; 14 seats are reserved for graduates and teachers, while 11 members are nominated.

In the memorandum submitted to the Congress leadership, the MLCs have pointed to the role they have played in mobilising support at the grassroots, besides providing intellectual backing to the party. Demanding representation from each category, they felt that under-representation of MLCs in the Cabinet could foster discontent, besides discouraging leaders from contesting Council polls.

Interestingly, the opposition has been criticising the 'cash-strapped' ruling party for generously granting Cabinet and minister-of-state ranks to 149 legislators and party workers, including ministerial positions, advisory roles and appointments as chairpersons of various boards and corporations.

Where the first-time MLAs emphasised the need for 'young, dynamic and proactive' ministers, in addition to the need to strike the 'right balance' of young and experienced legislators, MLCs pointed to the vast experience and expertise they would bring to the table.

The MLCs have also contended that they represent larger areas – 10 to 20 Assembly constituencies. Members elected to the Council from the teachers and graduates' seats being key opinion-makers in society, helped mobilise support among the young population, the MLCs said.

Although senior leaders in both the camps have expressed their support for these demands, Congress party insiders opined that it is part of a strategy to gauge the mood of the high command, given that Siddaramaiah is keen on a Cabinet rejig, while Shivakumar is looking to succeed to the CM's post before the reshuffle.

Parameshwara says he's capable of being CM, cites track record as state Cong chief

BENGALURU, DHNS

The power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar has once again popped the question of a dalit chief minister.

Home Minister G Parameshwara, on Wednesday, asserted that he was capable enough to be the chief minister.

Parameshwara, who was the KPCC chief between 2010 and 2018, said, "How many times should I prove my capability? I have worked as KPCC chief for eight years and brought the party to power twice. Did all this happen without my effort or calibre? I have served as deputy chief minister. So, no one should doubt my capability. I have proved beyond doubt that I am capable. It is only the circumstances and the party's decision that need to favour me," said the Koratagere MLA.

The demand for a "dalit CM" is once again gaining traction after the dalit ministers held a secret meeting recently.

The ministers have been countering Shivakumar staking claim to the CM's post, citing hard work.

Congress MLA K N Rajanna poked Shivakumar, saying the Congress owed Parameshwara his "old dues" as he had served the party for eight years as the state president.

"Shivakumar, who completes six years as party president (on March 30), is yet to break Parameshwara's record," Rajanna had taunted.

Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa too made a cryptic comment that a dalit would occupy the chief minister's chair in the state, much to the chagrin of Shivakumar.

"Mahadaveppa is also part of the high command and that is how he is in the know of things," Shivakumar had retorted.

Excise Minister R B Timmapur said, "No one can claim to be the next CM. It is futile. There is a clear process. One should get elected as CLP leader and then the party high command should endorse that decision. Even the caste debate is meaningless. There have been dalit CMs in the Congress, like Sushil Kumar Shinde (Maharashtra)."

'Ranya, aides smuggled 127.2 kg gold in 1 year, used Hawala route'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Kannada actress Ranya Rao and her associates smuggled 127.287 kg of gold, worth Rs 102.55 crore, into India in just one year, according to the prosecution complaint filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday.

The prosecution complaint — equivalent of a police charge sheet — was filed before the Special Court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases in Bengaluru.

It names Harshavardini Ranya alias Ranya Rao, Tarun Konduru Raju alias Virat Konduru, her key accomplice, and Sahil Sakariya Jain, a jeweller from Ballari, who allegedly helped dispose of the smuggled goods.

The ED has invoked the offence of money laundering as defined under Section 3 and punishable under Section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, it said.

"The smuggled gold was disposed of in the domestic market through a network of handlers and jewellers. The sale proceeds were generated in cash and settled through hawala channels in India and abroad. These funds were further layered and routed through multiple bank accounts and entities to project them as legitimate business transactions," the ED stated.

"The investigation has further revealed an organised and structured mechanism involving procurement of gold abroad, illegal import into India, cash-based disposal and subsequent laundering of proceeds through hawala and banking channels. Such activities not only undermine the legal trade and financial systems but also erode public trust in institutions meant to regulate cross-border transactions," it added.

On May 21 and 22, 2025, searches held at 16 locations in Karnataka led to the seizure of "incriminating documents, digital devices, Indian currency and foreign currency."

Statements of several persons were recorded during the investigation, the agency said.

During investigation, immovable properties valued at Rs 34.12 crore held in the name of Ranya were provisionally attached under Section 5(1) of PMLA, 2002, the ED said.

The ED launched a separate investigation following an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on March 7, 2025. The FIR was filed on the basis of a complaint by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

On March 3, 2025, the DRI caught Ranya after she landed at the Kempegowda International Airport, allegedly with 14.213 kg of concealed foreign-origin gold, worth Rs 12.56 crore. Subsequent searches led to the recovery of gold jewellery worth Rs 2.06 crore and Rs 2.67 crore in cash. The DRI later arrested her accomplices.

FIR against 25 ABVP members for vandalising Azim Premji University

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Rural police have registered an FIR against 25 ABVP members after they allegedly trespassed into the campus of Azim Premji University, assaulted six security personnel and a student, and vandalised property.

Sarjapur police had 20 protesters late on Tuesday evening. A court later released them on bail. According to a police complaint lodged by S Wilson, security manager at the university, around 100 ABVP members barged into the campus around 6 pm on Tuesday. When security staff tried to prevent their entry, they allegedly assaulted them with wooden sticks and abused them before issuing death threats.

ABVP activists blacken the Azim Premji University nameboard on February 24. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Six security personnel — Jagadish, Chandan Mahalik, Chattar Bahadur, Naresh, Shripati and Harish — sustained injuries in the assault. A first-year BA student, Mohammed Ali Ahmed, was also allegedly attacked and threatened with dire consequences.

The protesters allegedly blackened the university nameboard and raised slogans. The protest was against a discussion announced by Spark Reading Circle, affiliated with the All India Students' Association (AISA), on the 1991 Kunan Pashpora mass rape in Kashmir. The university condemned the vandalism and noted that the discussion did not happen at all.

'Police negligence"

It has been alleged that the police learned of the incident only after videos of the vandalism went viral on social media.

By the time they reached the spot, the damage had already been done.

There are also allegations that the police initially refused to register a case, calling the incident "just a protest" and only took the protesters into preventive custody.

JD(S) willing to have alliance with NDA for local polls: Deve Gowda

BENGALURU, DHNS: JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda on Wednesday said that his party is willing to continue alliance with NDA for local bodies, Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat elections.

Speaking to reporters, the former prime minister stated that the regional party is waiting for the decision by the BJP regarding alliance for local body elections.

"BJP is a national party and we are a regional outfit. We have to wait for BJP's pre-poll alliance decision and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy will discuss this with the BJP leadership," he said.

Refusing to react to the statement by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah calling JD(S) a family party, Deve Gowda said, "I will react when the time comes and my memory is good and I remember everything."

Red Fort blast case: NIA arrests 2 more; 11 held so far

Says duo was involved in supplying weapons and facilitating logistics

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

CRACKDOWN

- NIA identifies the accused as Zameer Ahmad Ahangar and Tufail Ahmad Bhat
- Both men are active overground workers linked to the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind terror outfit
- Investigations reveal that the conspiracy was masterminded by Dr Umer Un Nabi, who died in the explosion

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested two more alleged operatives from Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the November 10, 2025, car blast near Delhi's Red Fort, taking the total number of arrests in the case to 11.

The anti-terror probe agency identified the accused as Zameer Ahmad Ahangar of Ganderbal and Tufail Ahmad Bhat of Srinagar, alleging that they were involved in supplying weapons and facilitating logistics for the conspiracy.

According to an NIA spokesperson, both men were active overground workers linked to the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind terror outfit, and played a key role in procuring arms and ammunition for the prime accused.

The arrests, he said, were part of efforts to dismantle the broader network behind the blast that killed 11 people and injured several others .

"Investigations have revealed that Zameer and Tufail were also a part of various other terror conspiracies. They were engaged in the collection of arms and ammunition, intended for use against the Indian state," said the spokesperson.

Investigations have revealed that the conspiracy was masterminded by Dr Umer Un Nabi, who died in the explosion, while his associates — Dr Muzammil Ganai, Dr Shaheen Saeed, Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather, and Molvi Irfan — have been arrested.

Several among the accused were employed at Al-Falah University in Faridabad, around 35 km from Delhi.

Following the arrests of faculty members, Central agencies began scrutinising the institution's hiring and background verification processes.

Officials described the emerging module as a hybrid network that combined overground workers with educated professionals who allegedly handled procurement of explosives, safe houses and communication channels while maintaining regular careers.

The investigators said such "white-collar" operatives enabled the network to function discreetly across state lines.

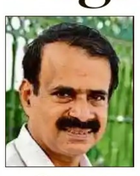
Kerala poll: BJP weighs Union minister

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As discussions on BJP's candidates for the Kerala Assembly polls progress, the party is reportedly considering Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian as a candidate.

Kurian is understood to be under consideration for Kanjirapally in his home district of Kottayam, a Christian-dominated region.

By fielding Kurian, currently a Rajya Sabha member from Madhya Pradesh, the BJP may be aiming to make inroads into the Christian vote bank.



George Kurian

Former Kerala Congress leader PC George and his son Shaun George, who are now with the BJP, along with Kitex Group managing director Sabu M George — head of the Twenty20 political party that recently joined the NDA — are also being considered by the BJP as part of its Christian outreach strategy.

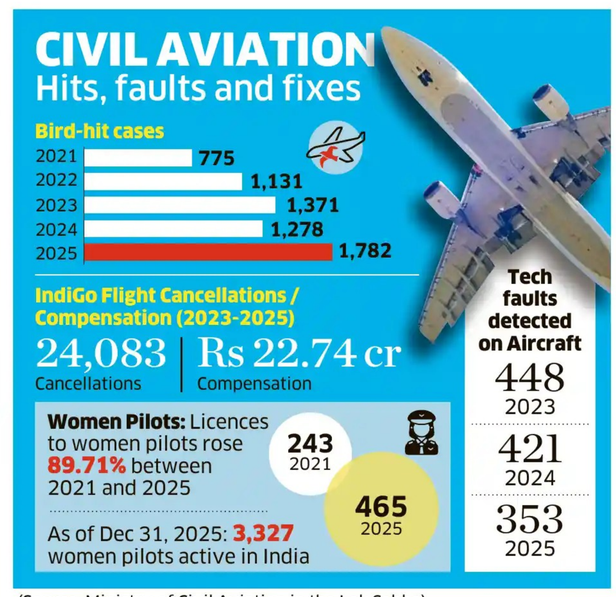
Party state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar has already announced that he will contest from Nemom in Thiruvananthapuram. Nemom was the first seat won by the BJP in the Kerala Assembly in 2016, though the party lost it in 2021.

Firebrand leader and state general secretary Sobha Surendran is likely to contest from Palakkad, one of the constituencies where the party has high hopes of securing a win.

The BJP is also likely to field Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of late Congress leader K Karunakaran, from Thrissur. Padmaja, who joined the BJP in 2024, had earlier contested from Thrissur as a Congress candidate.

The party has yet to decide whether its lone Lok Sabha MP from Kerala, Union Minister of State for Petroleum Suresh Gopi, will contest. He had contested from Thrissur in the last Assembly election but finished third. However, in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, he won the Thrissur seat.

Meanwhile, Congress criticised Suresh Gopi for repeatedly changing constituency. Gopi, who was a voter in Thiruvananthapuram, shifted to Thrissur during the LS polls. In the local body polls last year, he was again registered in Thiruvananthapuram. Now, he has moved to Guruvayur. Sources said he vacated a rented house in Thrissur and relocated to his Guruvayur flat. Hence, his voter registration was shifted there.



(Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation in the Lok Sabha)

Cash row: LS panel recast in judge removal probe

NEW DELHI, PTI: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday reconstituted a three-member panel set up to probe the grounds for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma after burnt wads of cash were recovered from his residence in March last year.

The panel was formed last year after Birla admitted a multi-party notice seeking removal of the Allahabad High Court judge, initiating the impeachment process.

A notification said a committee consisting of "Hon'ble Justice Aravind Kumar, Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the Bombay HC; and Shri BV Acharya, Senior Advocate, Karnataka HC" will conduct the investigation.

Justice Kumar and Acharya were part of the earlier panel, while Justice Chandrashekhar replaces former Madras High Court Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava.

Shirtless protest at AI Summit: Himachal, Delhi Police clash over Youth Cong workers' arrest

SHIMLA/NEW DELHI, PTI: In an ugly face-off, Himachal Pradesh police on Wednesday registered a kidnapping case against Delhi police personnel and "detained" their vehicles at the Shogi border near Shimla when they were heading back to the national capital with three Youth Congress members arrested in connection with the "shirtless protest" at the AI Summit.

"A case has been registered against 15-20 unknown people in plain clothes for forcibly taking three people staying in a resort in Rohru. They also took the CCTV installed in the resort with them and did not give any receipt," a statement issued by the Shimla police said.

The Delhi Police had earlier on Wednesday said it had arrested three Youth Congress activists in connection with the February 20 protest at AI Impact Summit from a hotel in Chirgaon area of Rohru subdivision of Himachal's Shimla district.

Saurabh, Siddharth and Arbaz were apprehended by the Special Cell of Delhi Police. They were produced before a local court, which granted transit remand to enable the police to bring them to Delhi for further questioning, an official of the Delhi police said.

Police officials from Delhi and Shimla in a conversation, in Shimla, on Wednesday. PTI

Himachal Police sources claimed they intercepted three vehicles in Shimla and Solan districts and brought them back to Shimla as the Delhi police had not taken transit remand.

Both the Shimla police and the Delhi police accused each other of hampering the investigation. Sources in Himachal Police claimed the team from Delhi carried out the operation in Shimla without informing the local police.

Acting on this, Himachal Pradesh police intercepted three vehicles carrying the accused -- who are reportedly not residents of Himachal Pradesh -- and Delhi Police personnel.

Two vehicles were stopped in Shimla, while the third was intercepted near Dharampur in Solan district. Around 20 people, including police personnel, were detained, the source said.

The Delhi police personnel again tried to leave for the national capital but were intercepted at Shogi border on Wednesday night on the road to Chandigarh and not allowed to leave.

In a video that appeared from the Shogi border in the suburbs of Shimla city, the Delhi police officers were heard saying that they had arrested three people in the morning in connection with an FIR registered on February 20.

"We have to produce the accused arrested at 5 am today in the court in 24 hours, and you have stopped us after registering an FIR at 8 pm," an officer of the Delhi police said.

However, the Shimla police officers maintained that a case of abduction has been registered and the Delhi police is hampering the investigation.

Three held in Rs 1.86 cr 'digital arrest' case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The CBI on Wednesday arrested three persons, including one from Bengaluru, in a "digital arrest' case in which a 68-year-old woman in Kerala's Kottayam was defrauded of Rs 1.86 crore.

The agency launched a synchronised search targeting two critical components of the cyber-fraud ecosystem -- mule bank account networks and fraudulently procured SIM cards. Searches were conducted at multiple locations in Goa, Bengaluru, Palakkad, Nagpur, Hyderabad and Delhi.

The arrested were identified as Blessin Jacob Abraham, Mohd Mushtaque and Mohd Junaid. Abraham allegedly played a key role in operating mule accounts.

Mushtaque allegedly operates a shell company in Nagpur and used it to receive proceeds of crime. Junaid was held from Bengaluru and allegedly involved in procuring SIM cards fraudulently.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

India in Pax Silica: Wins at a price

India has taken a strategic decision to join the United States-led Pax Silica alliance as a signatory member. The technology and supply chain coalition, launched in December 2025, consists of 11 members, including Australia, Japan, the UK, and Israel. With a focus on semiconductors, AI infrastructure, and critical minerals, it aims to raise investment and capacity among member countries in mineral extraction and processing, chip fabrication, and advanced computing. These efforts call for advanced technologies and the availability of raw materials, which are in short supply. The membership can provide India access to global markets and capital, boosting domestic manufacturing and establishing a governance role in a field influenced by global political alignments.

India's reasons for joining the alliance are clear. China dominates the field with over 90% of global rare earth processing capacity. It is estimated that 80-90% of India's rare earth magnets and related materials come from Chinese suppliers. Such large dependence on a single source, especially on China, comes with obvious risks. As a Pax Silica member, India can diversify its sources, create useful partnerships, and promote its industrial infrastructure on a global stage. India has a large semiconductor production programme worth about Rs 1.6 trillion, which involves global firms and domestic players. The Union government has announced the setting up of "rare earth corridors" in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, and a Rare Earth Permanent Magnets scheme. Just as India looks to gain from its association with the other members, especially the US, India's large market, skilled personnel, and geopolitical status make it attractive for the grouping.

Reduced dependence on China's minerals may also mean limited autonomy in a US-led alliance

There, however, are risks and trade-offs in aligning with one bloc. China will watch Pax Silica with understandable discontent and may exert pressure on India, which has a large trade relationship with its neighbour across domains. The terms of relations with the other members, especially the US, may constrain India in the way it engages with countries outside of the alliance. India may also have to align its rules for AI and related fields with the vision and policies of the grouping. This may hurt the country's strategic autonomy. The alliance is likely to further the strategic interests of the US, which does not have a history of reliability in such collaborative initiatives. It may be noted that major groups and countries, such as the European Union, the OECD, Canada, and Taiwan, are observers and non-signatory members – they will preserve their autonomy and may avoid binding commitments. India can also do with some caution.

Toxic veggies warrant systemic reform

A Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report finding that more than a quarter of vegetables sampled around Bengaluru are contaminated with dangerous levels of lead and pesticides is an indictment of regulatory neglect across the farm-to-market chain. The study, conducted at the instance of the National Green Tribunal, found that 19 of 72 vegetable samples breached permissible lead limits. An organic brinjal sample contained nearly 20 times the allowed concentration. That such produce reaches markets in the city unchecked points to a systemic failure. Bengaluru's predicament is shaped by what can be described as an irrigation trap. The CPCB team collected 26 soil samples as part of the exercise, of which 23 were found to be contaminated. There have been reports about farmers on the city's periphery, faced with recurring droughts and falling groundwater levels, who depend on secondary-treated urban wastewater.

The threat does not end with heavy metals. The study also detected residues of 12 pesticides above safety limits, including monocrotophos, a highly toxic organophosphate that was banned in India in 2023. Its presence points to the continued use of old stocks or illegal supply chains, both enabled by weak enforcement. Together, heavy metals and pesticide residues form a toxic mix with serious long-term consequences: exposure to high levels of lead may impact the brain and kidneys, and cause cardiovascular problems, while chronic pesticide exposure is linked to neurological disorders, hormonal disruption, and cancer. This invisible contamination amounts to a silent health tax on Bengalureans. Precautions such as washing the produce thoroughly, peeling root vegetables, diversifying the vegetable sources, and favouring seasonal supplies may help reduce the surface residues, but they cannot remove the toxins absorbed into plant tissue.

High levels of lead and pesticides in vegetables sold around Bengaluru expose alarming regulatory gaps

It bears emphasising that the CPCB study captures only a limited set of peri-urban belts that supply Bengaluru, not the entirety of the city's vast and fragmented food supply chain. Yet its findings carry implications that go far beyond the sampled fields. If contamination is this severe in monitored pockets, conditions in other unsurveyed belts – and in smaller towns that rely even more heavily on untreated wastewater and report weak oversight – could be equally, if not more, alarming. This is, therefore, not a local aberration but an early warning of what happens when rapid urban expansion, industrial pollution, and agrarian distress collide. Food safety cannot be treated as an afterthought; it must be engineered into the system, from soil and water to market and plate.

OPTICS OF REFORM

Labour Codes signal waning agency for workers

The promise of economic flexibility masks the risk of diluted rights for India's informal and migrant workers

TARA NAIR AND DIVYA VARMA

The year 2025 came to a close amidst heated discussions about the changing regulatory landscape of labour and the shifting framework of understanding worker rights in India. The last quarter of the year witnessed the introduction of important labour policy documents in quick succession. The draft Labour Policy was released in October as a prelude to the new labour codes that came into effect in November. This was followed in December by the enactment of the new law replacing the MGNREGA. With these reforms, the language and strategy of dealing with the issue of labour rights have shifted decisively. The four Labour Codes – the Code on Wages 2019, the Industrial Relations Code 2020, the Social Security Code (2020), and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Condition Code 2020 – mark a paradigmatic shift in the labour administration in India. They have restructured the existing 29 labour legislations, separately governing aspects of wages, working conditions, industrial relations, industrial safety, and social security, into four codes with the stated intention of aligning the labour ecosystem with the changing economic realities.

The codes do not recognise the overwhelming presence of unorganised or informal workers in non-agricultural production sectors in India. These workers are unprotected, their workplaces are unsafe, real wages have been stagnant over the years, and living conditions are deplorable. A large section of them are inter-state migrants, employed in the deliberately fragmented production units across a host of sectors. A close reading of the four codes together reveals that the *status quo* of these workers is unlikely to see any improvement. A few gaps seem critical based on our experience of working with informal and migrant workers in major migrant destinations across Gujarat and Maharashtra over the past 20 years.

An important feature of the new codes is upward revision of legal employment thresholds across the board to aid compliance. Raising the applicable threshold for factories and contract labour from 20 to 50 workers might end up excluding large segments of workers from the ambit of meaningful legal protection. Similarly, raising the threshold for mandatory government approval for layoff/retrenchment from 100 to 300 workers might make businesses more agile, but it will compromise the job security of a large number of workers. Furthermore, the legal vigil over increasingly informal recruitment practices may get diluted because of the changes in the threshold on licensing of contractors for employment of migrant and contract workers.

The Social Security Code has many provisions targeted at unorganised sector workers, including gig and platform workers, self-employed workers,

and home-based workers. The code pronounces schemes for life and disability cover, health and maternity benefit, old age protection, funeral assistance, education and skill upgradation, and provides broad-basing of the coverage of EPF and ESI benefits for workers in registered establishments, as also gig and platform workers. Paradoxically, it also allows establishments to exit the applicability of its provisions if 'the employer and majority of the employees agree in writing' (sub-section 5). This may open up enough room for employers to evade legal responsibility by co-opting workers' consent.

The OSH Code limits the applicability of its provisions to factories employing more than 20 workers. This would deny justice to precarious workers in smaller establishments. It is widely known that the most vulnerable workers are employed in micro enterprises that form a dominant segment of India's manufacturing landscape. Many industrial peripheries and corridors have come up over the last decades, teeming with tiny sweatshops located at the bottom of long supply chains. Our studies in clusters such as Jodhpur, Surat, and Mumbai have shown that lakhs of informal migrant workers labour dangerously amidst worn-out machines and hazardous materials in these establishments, constantly facing the threat of life-changing diseases, injuries, and accidents.

A workforce alienated

A crowdsourced database, the accident e-log that we have been compiling over the post-pandemic years to record workplace injuries and fatalities, reaffirms this. The smaller units that dominate sectors like metal, steel, automobile, and textiles often operate with very low margins and do not have the financial capability to provide basic safety measures to their workers. The State must support such units, technically and financially, to upgrade basic safety provisions and compensate the workers in case of injuries or death.

An apparently progressive provision like fixed-term employment is likely to be exploited by employers to deny permanent rights to workers and to dilute the power of unions. On the face of it, the flexibility allowed to employers to decide work schedules with the weekly cap of 48 working hours appears to be an enabling provision. However, this provision may introduce a significant degree of arbitrariness in work scheduling without reducing the burden of work for informal and migrant workers. A 12-hour workday is already the norm in many labour markets despite the apex court in India labelling it as an anti-labour practice.

If, after seven decades of independence, 90% of the country's workforce is informal without access to social security benefits, the reasons for such entrenched infirmity need to be sought in the structural and institutional bottlenecks that perpetuate informality in the labour market. The country needs stronger and sensitive worker-facing policies, robust institutional architecture for policy implementation and enforcement, and active State oversight in all matters that concern the rights and dignity of the workforce. Reorienting labour inspectors as inspector-cum-facilitators may further weaken enforcement by diluting the regulatory authority required to ensure adherence to the labour code provisions. The major concern about the new codes is whether they would widen the schism between the State and workers by allowing employers a larger and unequal playing ground to function as they like.

(The writers are Co-Founders and Directors at Work Fair and Free Foundation, an action-centric knowledge organisation working on informal and migrant workers)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Dosa, served with quality banter

Quarrel over *masala dosa* turns into a lesson on quality

K GNANAMURTHY

My grandchildren generally do not quarrel with each other—not that they are special, but they are preoccupied with studies and hobbies, as demanded by their education system in the United States. When they are on vacation here, however, they are free to pick on trivia and argue it out. Unable to resolve their differences, they came running to me, spoiling my afternoon's leisurely ponderings—which the wife calls a siesta.

What is quality—this time in a *masala dosa*—and where to go? One wants it crisp on one side and soft on the other, with spicy potato filling hidden inside in good measure. The other wants it paper-thin and folded into a cone, which you have to unsettle before discovering there is nothing inside. I would have eaten both but had an important task at hand.

"First", I said, launching into an explanation, "you have to define quality—say, conforming to requirements. If your requirements are different, there cannot be a comparison between a motorcycle and a scooter, for example, to declare one better than the other. Now, 'requirement' is a vague term, so can we say 'fitness for use'? Again, what was a means of simple transport became a pride of possession. You became a He-Man going about in a Harley. Conforming to specifications quantitatively became the byword in industry for several decades, with Joseph Juran guiding the world till recently on how to define quality."

"It is simple, *thatha*; people should improve on inspection. Then how can customers be dissatisfied?" they argued.

I said, "You do not improve quality by monitoring. It should be instilled at the starting point by choosing the right method and inculcating value for quality. Next time you go to that *dosa* place, you'll see the server, carrying twenty-odd plates in his hand, all sizzling with identical *dosas*. Nobody in the kitchen supervises the cook and rejects bad ones; in fact, there are none. Inculcating the quality tenor is done much, much before the name board rises."

The elder one, Sharada, now in university, has read Philip B Crosby's *Quality is Free* and asked if quality is really free. I had to think.

If, between two people, one has to spend more money than the other to produce the same quality, it simply means he should not be in business. If your grade is, say, 8 in quality, do not accept 9 as a challenge; in fact, accept only 6. The customer is not a testing ground in your journey to excellence. Practise at home. This is what the quality gurus call process capability. I wanted to tell them the latest thinking in quality is not merely conforming to this or that but ensuring customer delight.

"Well, *thatha*, finally—where do we go for *dosa*?" Ganesh asked.

"Both restaurants give exactly what they promise," I said. "We'll eat at both—one each day."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bengaluru must focus on waste segregation, modern processing

The recent decision by BSWML to seek 100 acres of private land for garbage disposal raises concerns about Bengaluru's waste management strategy. Despite a year-long search for government land, the city still lacks a sustainable plan. While Deputy CM D K Shivakumar emphasised finding land with "minimal human habitation", past projects in Mandur faced protests for a reason. Moving trash to Kolar or Magadi Road isn't a permanent solution. The mention of tampered revenue documents regarding Gollahalli land is concerning, highlighting the need for transparency. The city should focus on waste segregation and modern processing plants rather than just finding new dumping sites.
Girish Murugan, Bengaluru

Vandalism shameful

It is highly disturbing to read about the incident of vandalism at the Azim Premji University. ABVP activists protested a seminar discussing alleged soldier misconduct in J&K, resorting to violence instead of seeking inquiry or clarification. The activists would have done well to demand an inquiry by the Army and the Home Ministry to clear the soldiers of this cloud hanging over them. Instead they chose vandalism. Their actions are shameful, and the state police should act impartially, unlike the Delhi Police's handling of Congress protests.
Hemachandra Basappa, Bengaluru

From data to dignity

Apropos 'Counting trans lives, miscounting realities' (Feb 25), accurate data is crucial for policy design, but mere counting is not inclusion. Without social acceptance and accessible welfare schemes, numbers remain symbolic. Recognition must translate into real opportunities in education, healthcare, and employment, moving beyond documentation to dignity.
Himadri Kaushik, Bengaluru

Trade tensions

I refer to 'Tariffs hit an uneasy pause' (Feb 25). The US Supreme Court's ruling on Trump's IEEPA use is welcome for democratic checks. However, the 15% levy remains, and post-150-day plans are unclear. Trump's stance lacks indication of change, affecting India and other US trade partners like the United Kingdom, Japan, and European Union.
S S Paul, Nadia (WB)

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

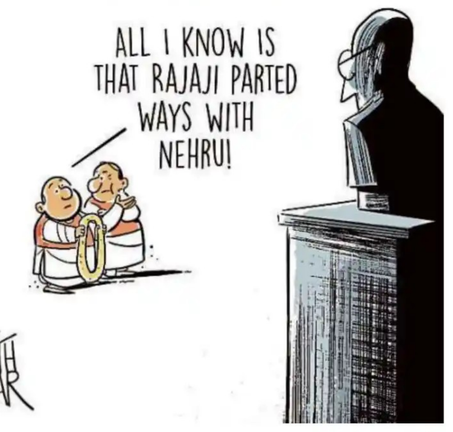
SPEAK OUT

Madrassas are centres for making terrorists. Would we have ever gotten permission to set up centres for learning the *Bhagavad Gita* in a Muslim nation? We have no other option but to shut them down.

Nitesh Rane, Maharashtra Minister

Now hatred is by far the longest pleasure; men love in haste but they detest at leisure.
Lord Byron

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Reframing India's wildlife conflicts

Policy must pivot on the 'conflicting human' and reshape governance through wildlife-sensitive approaches

JAGMOHAN SHARMA

Wildlife safaris in Bandipur and Nagarahole national parks, suspended on November 7, 2025, following the death of three persons in wildlife conflicts in the Bandipur landscape, were reopened on February 22. Have we resolved the issue that led to the suspension? What needs to change to avoid a recurrence?

Fundamental to the context of human-wildlife conflict are five premises. First, wild animals sustain under the forces of nature, guided by their instincts. Second, wild animals are an inseparable part of biodiversity, which is essential for human progress and well-being. Third, humans are a dominant force on the planet and have expanded across most of it, adversely affecting all other species and biodiversity. Fourth, humans take a short-term view, often ignoring long-term implications. Fifth, they act beyond the means naturally available to them, through technology.

What does this suggest? While wild animals act predictably and on natural instinct, humans act beyond instinct and often against nature. Nonetheless, humans incriminate the wild animals as intruders, raiders, attackers – the real perpetrators of human-wildlife conflict. Such framing and focus on the 'conflicted animals', rather than the 'conflicting humans', is misplaced. This misdiagnosis of the conflict's cause hinders its resolution.

We define human-wildlife conflict as the loss of human life, injury to humans, and property damage caused by wild animals. Animals killed in conflicts are an underemphasised part of the conflict. Are the fragmentation of wild animal habitats by diverting them for development, hunting wild animals for bush meat, and the deliberate disposal of plastic, poultry, and other waste in forest areas not the ways humans conflict with wildlife?

Human-wildlife conflict is primarily concentrated in landscapes surrounding forest areas that have been converted to agricultural fields and settlements, and utilised for other infrastructure. Such landscapes are predominantly inhabited by marginal farmers and landless households at the bottom of the economic pyramid. These households rely heavily on natural resources – land, animal meat, wood, fruits, and water – to sustain themselves. With uncertain means of survival, they risk engaging with the wild animals.

The majority of the sources of conflict in peri-urban areas are avoidable, and their mitigation rests with the development planners. Conflict becomes inevitable when land utilisation is not planned, and development approaches the forest boundary. Uncared-for dogs attract leopards, and unmanaged waste dumps attract wild pigs and other animals, putting them under threat from intersecting the human-designed landscapes.

Conflict is a by-product of the pressure on developmental planning and governance, which has fallen short in delivering decent standards of living to people inhabiting forested landscapes. Despite planning and regulatory bodies' explicit mandate, development proceeds opportunistically and intersects with animal habitats and movement corridors, causing conflict. Development planning needs to be sensitive to the risk to households from unmanaged interface with wild animals. It must aim at separation from forests and wild animals. The Karnataka Forest Rules 1969, under Rule 41(2), provide for maintaining a buffer of 100 metres from the forest boundary and restrict developmental activities within the buffer. However, this provision has been followed more in exception, resulting in their loss in most forest areas.

Mapping movement patterns

Human-wildlife conflict arises under specific circumstances at a site. It is animal-specific and site-specific. An animal is instinctively attracted to sources of food and water, and seeks safety cover. For example, an elephant may raid a sugarcane field or a coffee estate where these resources are available, or a tiger may prey on livestock grazing in a forest, exposing humans in the vicinity to potential attacks.

Using their expertise and technology, planners can map animal-luring resources and human activity patterns and assess the risk of conflict. This can inform them about the vulnerabilities and required actions. The demarcation of development zones and separate spaces for wild animals and humans is desirable. However, when not feasible, adopting precautionary measures and developing long-term human-wildlife cohabitation plans becomes necessary.

Locating new infrastructure, such as settlements, mining pits, and industrial units, in proximity to forests invariably increases conflict. Panchayat Raj and urban area bodies should approve development plans that are inherently wildlife-compatible. Developmental provisioning under the Forest Rights Act must anticipate potential conflicts.

The focus on 'conflicted animal' is a misdiagnosis of the crisis. The current fixes of animal-proof fences and compensation funds are a bandage, not a cure. Conflict-sensitive developmental planning that focuses on the 'conflicting human' can help ease the friction. Continued conflict will erode the support for biodiversity conservation and the opportunity for sustainable economic development.

(The writer is a retired IFS officer and former director, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy)

The shifting grammar of political protest in the age of optics

DATELINE New Delhi

SUMIT PANDE

Purana Qila is believed to be one of the oldest surviving enclaves in what later became modern Delhi. In the 12th century, Prithviraj Chauhan, a Tomar Rajput, lost the fort to the invading armies of Muhammad Ghori.

While Ghori returned, his Turkish commander, Qutab-ud-din Aibak, stayed back. Aibak, the founder of the Slave Dynasty, re-edified the old fort built in red and yellow sandstone and added a few more monuments to the Delhi skyline.

Over the next millennium, successive rulers built new structures. Gardens were laid, mausoleums and tombs were raised in memory of the departed. And Delhi evolved into the capital of India.

Tughlaqabad, on the south-eastern periphery of the city, was developed by Ghyas-ud-din Tughlaq in the 14th century. What is now called Old Delhi is, in fact, Shahjahanabad, built by the Mughal emperor Shahjahan.

Rulers—mediaeval monarchs, imperial traders or democratically elected leaders—are often guided by the urge to seek immortality in monuments. That, they believe, sets them apart from mere mortals.

Indira Gandhi, fresh from victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war, decided to build such a shrine to showcase India's march towards modernity. A fallow tract of land across the road abutting the southern wall of the Purana Quila was chosen as the site for a grand exhibition complex designed to accommodate halls, theatres, and restaurants. In 1972, Pragati Maidan hosted its first event – the Asia Trade Show.

When the BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, it decided that what Naya Bharat needed was a state-of-the-art destination to showcase and unleash the potential of a $5-trillion economy in the making.

The old structure was pulled down, and in its place sprang Bharat Mandapam. Since its inauguration, the mandapam has hosted marquee international events like the G-20 summit in 2023. When it came to showcasing India's artificial intelligence prowess to the world at the 2026 summit, the Mandapam was the obvious choice for the venue.

The event was inaugurated with all the frills of a mega-conference. Everything was going as per the script when a purely organic claim on an artificial dog created a quandary of the most unexpected proportion.

In a country getting sharply polarised between dog lovers and baiters, someone should also have thought of the perils of introducing a canine element to the summit. Not in the least, the young, enterprising reporter from the country's public broadcaster, who thought the robot dog at the Galgotia University stall was a little *hat-ke* (different).

"It is indeed *hat-ke*," acknowledged the professor of communication representing the institution.

Delhi, the power centre, is also different. In the sense that being in the national capital, the stakes are high. And you are, whatever you do, under scrutiny. Which is why one needs to walk a little *bach-ke* (with caution). Always. One mistake, if it gets picked, can trigger strong reactions, including semi-nude protests.

Like the one organised by nine members of the Indian Youth Congress who barged into one of the pavilions at Bharat Mandapam. Taking off their shirts as a mark of protest against what they alleged was "betrayal" in the proposed India-US trade deal.

Congress allies begged to differ, both on the form and venue of the protest. But the Grand Old Party stood by its cadres.

The incident brings back memories of another protest carried out by the IYC in the heart of Delhi in the summer of 2003. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was prime minister, and Congress-ruled Rajasthan faced a severe drought.

The IYC, led by Randeep Singh Surjewala, now the party's national general secretary, had requested the then Congress President Sonia Gandhi to flag off 50 trucks of food grain collected for drought relief. With permission from the Union Home Ministry—headed by Deputy PM L K Advani—not forthcoming, a group of party workers marched to the residence of the then state BJP chief, Vasundhara Raje Scindia, at 1, Sunhari Bagh Road, just a stone's throw from the Parliament House, to make a point.

As a mark of protest, this IYC contingent emptied a couple of sacks of wheat at Scindhia's doorstep. Newspaper reports suggest that the protesters were detained by police and later released.

The 2003 "grain rain" did not evoke as much media debate as the "shirtless" one. It passed off as just another protest where IYC cadres wanted to make their presence felt.

Looking back, one recalls the larger political context of the protest. It was a time when the BJP was rearing to challenge and wrest back power from the Congress in four states – Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

A good performance in provincial polls would have laid the perfect foundation for the party to seek another term at the Centre under Vajpayee.

In the elections held in December 2003, the BJP indeed won all states except Delhi. It precipitated Lok Sabha snap polls, hoping to ride the India Shining campaign.

Congress, the challenger, was also doing its bit. Quietly testing the waters to assess public mood and reaction on the ground. The "grain-drain" protest was just one element of that strategy.

DHNS

Teachers say they want to equip high school students to drive artificial intelligence, rather than be mere passengers steered by chatbots

NATASHA SINGER

Audit Your Last 24 Hours
PASSENGER MODE
Algorithms suggested it.
DRIVER MODE
I had specific intent.
Did I decide, or did the the AI say "okay" for me?

Mike Taubman (left) and Scott Kern created, and co-teach, AI literacy class at a high school in New Jersey. The new lessons aim to teach students how to examine the latest tech tools and use them responsibly. NYT

The lesson of AI literacy class: Don't let chatbots think for you

The first session of a new artificial intelligence class this month for high school seniors in Newark, New Jersey, involved purely human intelligence. The students' assignment: to compare when they had passively scrolled through AI-driven social media feeds with times when they had actively selected the videos or Google search results they wanted to see. "Are you steering the technology or is it steering you?" asked a slide on the classroom whiteboard at Washington Park High School.

In a class discussion that followed, a student named Adrian Farrell, 18, said he had taken charge of AI by asking a chatbot to check his math homework for accuracy. Brianna Perez, 18, said she went into "passenger mode" when using a Spotify feature called AI DJ. "It plays your favourite music so you don't have to change it," she said.

Schools across the United States are hustling to introduce a new subject: AI literacy.

In what some educators are calling a "driver's licence" for AI, the new lessons aim to teach students how to examine the latest tech tools and use them responsibly. Teachers say they want to prepare young people to navigate a world increasingly shaped by AI, as chatbots manufacture human-sounding writing and employers use algorithms to help vet job candidates.

Some schools are focused on AI chatbots, teaching students how to prompt Google's Gemini or Microsoft's Copilot. Some are introducing AI as a new class topic, with lessons examining societal consequences like the spread of AI-generated nude images, known as deepfakes.

AI lessons are becoming more common in schools as a debate has exploded over whether chatbots are likely to improve — or doom — education. Proponents say schools must quickly teach young people to use AI to assist their learning, prepare them for jobs and help the United States compete with China. Last year, President Donald Trump issued an executive order urging schools to teach "foundational AI literacy" starting in kindergarten.

Education researchers warn that chatbots can make stuff up, enable cheating and erode critical thinking. A recent study from Cambridge University Press & Assessment and Microsoft Research found that students who took notes on text passages had better reading comprehension than students who got help from chatbots.

For now, "the risks of utilising AI in education overshadow its benefits," the Brookings Institution concluded last month in a report on school AI use.

Amid the debate, schools such as Washington Park High are staking out a middle ground by treating AI as if it were a car and helping students develop rules for the road. Mike Taubman, 45, a career explorations teacher who co-developed the school's new literacy course, compared the class to preparing teenagers for their driver's licence exam. "Where do you want to go, and can AI help you get there?" Taubman asked. Students needed to learn to drive AI tools, analyse what's under the hood, develop guidelines for personal use and design ideal safety policies, he said.

Washington Park, a four-story building with a red brick facade in downtown Newark, serves about 900 high school students. Taubman and Scott Kern, a US history teacher, came up with the idea for the new elective class on AI. Both had already introduced AI tools and topics in their regular courses.

Kern, 45, recently participated in a programme at Playlab, a nonprofit that helps teachers create customised AI apps for their courses. To help his students hone their argumentative writing, Kern developed chatbots for his US history classes based on his course materials and student assessments. He also developed firm guidelines for students on when to use — and when not to use — AI bots.

On a recent Tuesday, Kern taught an Advanced Placement US History class on the Chicago Race Riot, violent protests set off by the murder of a Black teenager in 1919. First, he asked students to read century-old newspaper clippings and other historical documents. Then, he led a class discussion on broader trends that had helped fuel the tensions. Next, Kern asked students to spend a few minutes describing the main cause of the riot to a chatbot he had created for the class. Allyson Johnson, 17, opened her laptop and typed in her answer: entrenched racial segregation.

"Let me push you on this," the chatbot responded. Segregation had existed for decades before 1919. So what specific factors, the bot asked, had caused a tense situation to suddenly escalate "into explosive violence"?

Johnson said she enjoyed sparring with the AI because "the chatbot asked me different questions that pushed my argument even more."

After a few minutes, Kern told students that their time with the chatbot was up and resumed the class discussion. Fundamental student learning should remain an AI-free activity, he said.

The New York Times

More than half of teens use chatbots for schoolwork, survey finds

More than half of teenagers in the United States use artificial intelligence tools for help with their schoolwork, according to a new study from the Pew Research Centre.

Fifty-four percent of students ages 13 to 17 said they had used a chatbot such as OpenAI's ChatGPT or Microsoft's Copilot for tasks like researching school assignments or solving math problems, Pew said in a report published Tuesday.

In 2024, 26% of US teenagers said they had used ChatGPT for their schoolwork, according to a previous Pew study asking specifically about their use of that chatbot. That was a twofold increase from 2023, when only 13% of students said they used ChatGPT for school help, according to Pew, a nonpartisan research centre.

The latest report, based on a survey of 1,458 teenagers and their parents last fall, found that AI use among teens varied widely. While 44% of teens said they used AI for "some" or "a little" schoolwork, 10% of teens said they turned to chatbots for help with all or most of their schoolwork.

"We're definitely seeing that the use of AI chatbots for help with schoolwork is becoming a common practice for teens," said Colleen McClain, a senior researcher at Pew and a co-author of the study.

The findings come amid a heated national debate over the spread of generative AI systems, which can produce human-sounding texts, create realistic-looking images and make apps.

AI proponents say schools must teach students to use and assess AI chatbots to prepare young people for changing workplace needs. Critics warn the bots can produce misinformation, mislead students, undermine critical thinking, help lead to self-harm and facilitate cheating.

Several recent studies suggest chatbots may hinder critical thinking and impede learning. In one study on reading comprehension from Cambridge University Press & Assessment and Microsoft Research, students assigned to take notes without using chatbots showed better reading comprehension than students assigned to use chatbots.

Among the teenagers, 47% said they had used chatbots for fun, while 42% said they used the tools to summarize content. A smaller group, 12%, said they had used bots for advice or emotional support. The report also shed light on how teenagers are using AI tools for school. The results, the report said, indicate that teenagers think "cheating with AI has become a regular feature of student life." NYT

Selective erasures and inclusions

MELANIE P KUMAR

What is it about authoritarian leaders and their need to erase history that does not align with their line of thinking? Perhaps, it is in keeping with a mindset that wishes to exercise total control over what people need to be told, to keep them in thrall of such leadership.

The latest to jump onto this bandwagon is Vladimir Putin, who has decided to do away with the Gulag History Museum in Moscow and convert it into an exhibition covering Nazi crimes committed during World War II. No doubt the Soviets did face huge atrocities then, but for Putin this seems to be a convenient ploy, as throughout his assault on Ukraine, he has maintained that he is getting rid of the fascist forces that dominate there.

Seems to be a case of killing two birds with one stone, as with the removal of the Gulag Museum, all the atrocities committed during the rule of Josef Stalin will be wiped out. The Gulag Museum was founded in 2001, and authorities shut it down in 2024 on the pretext of fire safety violations. Till then, the museum had commemorated the millions of people who had been sent to the Gulag – a euphemism for a vast network of forced labour camps that operated across the country between 1918 and 1956. Millions of alleged traitors and enemies inconvenient to Stalin's regime were sent there, often to their deaths.

The museum was the repository of thousands of artefacts of Gulag victims, including letters and personal belongings, and was among the last institutions dedicated to documenting the cruel Soviet-era political repression. The museum sounds, in so many ways, like the Holocaust Museum at Auschwitz that the lines seem to blur between the actions of dictators from the left and the right.

The closure is widely believed to be a part of Putin's clampdown on institutions that reveal the human rights violations of the Soviet era and project instead a sanitised version of a World War II victor, with the idea of fostering patriotism.

When speaking of the Gulag, one can't help but recall the fearless voice of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, winner of the 1970 Nobel Prize for Literature. After serving as a commander in World War II and being thrice decorated for personal heroism in major action on the front, Solzhenitsyn fell foul of Stalin for criticising him in private correspondence. He was arrested in 1945 and sentenced to eight years in a labour camp, followed by permanent internal exile.

The camp experience provided Solzhenitsyn the raw material for *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, which was allowed to be published in 1962 – his only major work to appear in his home country till 1990. Fortunately, Khrushchev's reforms allowed Solzhenitsyn to return to central Russia in 1956, where he taught at a high school while continuing to write. The publication in the West of *August 1914* and *The Gulag Archipelago* brought retaliation from the Soviet authorities. By 1969, Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Writers' Union, and in 1974, he was stripped of his Soviet citizenship and flown against his will to Germany.

Solzhenitsyn finally settled down with his family in Vermont in 1976. Over the next 18 years, the Nobel Laureate completed his epic historical cycle, *The Red Wheel*, as well as many shorter works. It is interesting to note that in his essays and speeches, he was extremely critical of the weak will of Western governments in the face of unending manifestations of Communist aggression. He also revealed remarkable prescience in warning against the dangers of increasing materialism, both for the East and the West.

Solzhenitsyn was allowed to return to his native Russia in 1994, where he continued to write prodigiously till his death in 2008, at the age of 89. In the changed milieu, the Laureate was awarded many honours, including the Russian State Prize in 2007.

While Putin might have succeeded in closing down the Gulag History Museum, it might be that much harder for him to erase out the *Gulag Archipelago* and other books by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, which are historical documents of the atrocities committed by Stalin and others in Russia's communist regime.

Closer to home too, we are witness to selective erasures. On WhatsApp and other social media, there is little talk about how the RSS and the Muslim League colluded at one time with the British for a partitioning of India on communal lines. Now the whitewash is done by references to the attacks on Somnath or by bringing in new regulations saying that all the verses of *Vande Mataram* will henceforth have to be sung before the National Anthem at public functions. Imagine everyone fumbling over the highly Sanskritised words of this song. To what purpose no one knows, or whether the erasing of Gandhi's name from a rural programme will make life easier for its beneficiaries. One can only guess whether this pyrrhic victory will stand the test of time in wiping a tear from every eye, as envisaged by the Mahatma.

(The author is an independent writer and a keen observer of politics)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

Postal rates up from March

New Delhi, February 25
Registration fee, money order commission, telephone call charges and tariffs for several other postal and telecommunication services have been increased substantially from March 1 "to meet the growing cost of operation," it was announced today. The announcement said the tariffs had to be revised as the Posts and Telegraphs Department had suffered a loss in the current financial year, mainly because of the "increase in the wage bill due to grant of higher pay and additional dearness allowance." As a result of the tariff revision, the P& T Department expects a net surplus next year.

25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

Govt may cover more groups under North-East ceasefire

New Delhi, Feb 25
The Centre was actively considering the Nagaland government's proposal to declare ceasefire with three other underground groups and a suggestion to extend the ceasefire to other areas in the North-East, Union Home Minister L K Advani said today. He said, "So far there is a ceasefire agreement with one group NSCN(I-M) but the Centre is actively considering bringing others groups under the purview of the truce. The state government has been insisting that all underground groups in Nagaland be brought under the process."

OASIS | ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

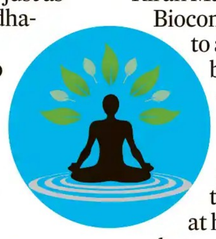
Logic proves what passion dreams

Have you ever wondered why our most brilliant ideas often wither away, while less exciting projects sail through to approval?

When our dreams are dismissed, we feel dejected. However, great leaders show us that success isn't just about having a dream; it's about the art of translating an abstract vision into the practical language of reason.

History proves that our greatest successes lie in the balance of heart and mind. Consider Steve Jobs and the resurrection of Apple in the late 90s. He saved the company with a ruthless logical framework. He famously slashed Apple's product line from 350 items down to just four. By focusing resources only on what worked, he turned a dying company into a global titan.

This need for structure is just as clear in the work of E. Sreedharan, the "Metro Man". He didn't build the Delhi Metro on mere idealism. Faced with the chaotic, congested streets of the capital, he didn't just sell a "dream of modern travel". Instead, he implemented a system of strict deadlines and "reverse clocks" that counted down to the second. By prioritising technical quality and punctuality over empty promises, he turned a logistical nightmare into a global gold standard.



Even when the world is biased, logic serves as the ultimate equaliser. When Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw founded Biocon, banks were hesitant to lend to a woman in the new field of biotech. She, on the contrary, didn't simply ask for fairness; she used scientific rigour as her shield. By using patents as proof of value, she forced the financial world to look at her balance sheet, proving that we must speak the language of results to be heard.

This principle applies to our personal lives just as much as global industry. When we propose a family investment, for example, we shouldn't just ask for "trust". We need to show the math. When we compare old returns with new gains adjusted for the rising cost of living, the fear of the unknown evaporates. Emotion is our invitation, but clarity is our commitment.

Success is rarely about who speaks the loudest; it's about the "structural integrity" of the argument. Our inner fire is our fuel, but our words must be the map. Those who build bridges of reason are the ones who steer history. By grounding soaring ambitions in concrete facts, we transform fleeting inspiration into an enduring legacy.

Passion is the engine, but logic is the path.

Can't vilify communities through speech or art: Supreme Court

Says public figures must uphold fraternity, not target any community

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

It is constitutionally impermissible for any entity, whether state or non-state actors, to vilify or denigrate a community through any medium, including speeches, memes, cartoons or visual arts, the Supreme Court has observed.

"It will be violative of the Constitution to target any particular community on the basis of religion, language, caste or region, regardless of who the person may be. This is especially true for public figures holding high constitutional office, who have taken a solemn oath to uphold the Constitution," Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said.

The judge's order comes days after the Supreme Court separately declined to entertain a plea against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over a viral video purportedly showing him taking aim and firing with a rifle at members of the Muslim community.

Justice Bhuyan made the observations in his separate judgment, delivered on February 19, in a writ petition challenging the title of Netflix's film 'Ghooskhor Pandat'.

He cited the Imran Pratapgarhi case, where a two-judge bench had said, "Seventy-five years into our republic, we cannot be seen to be so shaky on our fundamentals that the mere recital of a poem, or for that matter, any form of art or entertainment, such as stand-up comedy, can be alleged to generate animosity or hatred among different communities. Subscribing to such a view would stifle all legitimate expressions of opinion in the public domain, which are so fundamental to a free society."

As filmmaker Neeraj Pandey withdrew the controversial title, Justice Bhuyan said, "This would equally apply to the title of a movie as well. I say this and no more. Though no adjudication was called for in this case, I felt it necessary to restate the first principles, lest there remain any lingering misconception."

In his order, Justice Bhuyan underscored that the idea of fraternity was envisioned as a deep sense of well-being for others, understood as essential to counterbalance individualism, thereby preventing anarchy and sustaining moral order in society.

The judge pointed out that BR Ambedkar's introduction of the term fraternity into the constitutional Preamble reflected his persistent efforts to eradicate caste discrimination and his advocacy for unity and brotherhood, mirroring his commitment to inclusivity.

"Unlike the West, in India, fraternity is distinctly perceived as a vital instrument for realising equality and harmonising the diverse segments of society. It serves as a conduit for transcending societal disparities and working towards collective well-being. Therefore, in the Indian constitutional context, fraternity assumes a dynamic and inclusive role, aligning with the broader goals of social justice, equality and upliftment," he wrote.

NEED FOR FRATERNITY

- SC says denigrating communities is constitutionally impermissible
- Says no entity can vilify communities through speech, memes or art
- Justice Bhuyan's separate opinion addresses fraternity in 'Ghooskhor Pandat' case
- Order follows SC's refusal to entertain plea against Assam CM's video showing him aiming at Muslims

Toll from adulterated milk in Andhra dist rises to 6

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The number of deaths in Andhra Pradesh's Rajamahendravaram milk adulteration incident has risen to six, with two more victims — a six-year-old boy and a 58-year-old woman — succumbing to renal failure. Seven others remain in critical condition.

Medical and health officials said the victims first noticed a bad taste in the milk, followed by cessation of urine.

Complaints from one family at a private hospital, where doctors diagnosed anuria, alerted the district medical and health officer (DMHO).

Advisories have been issued to 106 families, with blood samples collected from 315 people. Currently, 15 are hospitalised, including eight in critical condition and three children.

Ten food samples are under testing at government, forensic, and private labs, with results due in 48-72 hours.

Bride shot at on wedding stage in Bihar's Buxar

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

A bride was shot on the wedding stage on Tuesday night in Bihar's Buxar district, allegedly by her lover.

The assailant, identified as Deenbandhu, opened fire on Aarti around 11 pm on February 24 while family members were performing wedding rituals.

Aarti sustained a gunshot wound to her abdomen and was rushed to Buxar Sadar Hospital. Doctors referred her to the Varanasi Trauma Centre in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh for further treatment.

She is reportedly battling for her life, while the 'baraat', which had come from UP's Ballia district, has returned.

"Raids are on to nab Deenbandhu, who is absconding after the shooting. His parents have been detained for questioning," said Additional Station House Officer Chandan Kumar.

Family members alleged that the accused was in a one-sided love with her and had earlier objected to the marriage.

Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav criticised the Nitish Kumar government, questioning the sharp rise in criminal activity.

SC refuses to ban movie title 'Yadav Ji ki Love Story'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to consider a plea to ban or change the title of the upcoming Hindi film *Yadav Ji ki Love Story*, saying the name does not portray the Yadav community in a poor light.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan found the apprehensions as "wholly unfounded" and distinguished the present matter from its earlier order in a case related to a film titled *Ghooskhor Pandat*, in which it had asked the producer to change that movie's title.

ED attaches Anil Ambani's 'Abode'

Rs 3,716-cr house seized over alleged bank fraud

MUMBAI, DHNS

In a major setback to Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached his Mumbai residence, 'Abode', valued at around Rs 3,716, in connection with an ongoing bank fraud case involving his group company.

The 17-storey luxury home is located in Mumbai's Pali Hill — a neighbourhood known for the residences of prominent figures from the arts, entertainment, business and politics.

Reliance Communications Ltd (RCOM), a Reliance Group company, is under investigation by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

With the latest order, the total value of attachments in this case stands at around Rs 15,700 crore. The action was carried out by the ED's Special Task Force, which is investigating the matter.

Earlier, part of this property had been attached to the extent of Rs 473 crore.

The ED initiated its probe based on a CBI FIR filed against RCOM, Anil Ambani and others.

"RCOM and its group companies availed loans from domestic and foreign lenders, of which Rs 40,185 crore remains outstanding," ED officials said on Wednesday.

"ED investigations have revealed that, among other assets, the Pali Hill property was aggregated into the RiseE Trust — a private family trust of Anil Ambani's family members. This was done to create the impression that Anil Ambani was not directly involved," officials said.

The intended effect of this corporate restructuring was to ensure wealth preservation and resource generation by consolidating the property within the RiseE Trust, while shielding it from Anil Ambani's personal liabilities arising from the guarantees he extended to lender banks against loans sanctioned to RCOM.

The property was intended to be beneficially used and owned by the Anil Ambani family, and not for the distressed public banks whose loans had turned into NPAs.

RCOM PROBE

Anil Ambani

- 17-storey luxury home 'Abode' located in Pali Hill, Mumbai
- RCOM under ED probe under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)
- Total attachments in the case now stand at Rs 15,700 cr
- RCOM and group firms owe Rs 40,185 cr to lenders

PM Modi conferred with Israel's 'Speaker of the Knesset Medal'

JERUSALEM, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Wednesday conferred with the 'Speaker of the Knesset Medal' in recognition of his exceptional contribution to strengthening strategic relations between India and Israel.

The Indian prime minister is the first leader to receive this medal, which is the highest honour of the Knesset - the Israeli Parliament.

Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana conferred the award on the prime minister after his address at the Israeli Parliament.

The medal was conferred in recognition of the prime minister's exceptional contribution, through his personal leadership, to strengthen strategic relations between India and Israel.

PM Modi said the award was "not a tribute to an individual, but to the enduring friendship between India and Israel".

"I am deeply honoured to receive the Medal of the Knesset. I accept it with humility and gratitude. This honour is not a tribute to an individual, but to the enduring friendship between India and Israel. It reflects the shared values that guide our two nations," Modi wrote on social media.

PM Modi is a rare world leader who has received top awards from both Israel and Palestine.

In 2018, Modi was conferred the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine, which is the highest Palestinian honour for foreign leaders.

This is the latest addition to PM Modi's distinguished list of over 28 highest civilian awards from foreign nations, including recent honours such as Order of Oman and Ethiopia's Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia and Kuwait's Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said he and Modi share a "close personal relationship, speak often, and I believe that the deep friendship between us powerfully reflects on the ties between our two countries."

"Tomorrow we will visit Yad Vashem, and afterwards hold another meeting together with our teams, during which we will sign a series of agreements," he added.

It is PM Modi's second visit to Israel in nine years. The India-Israel relationship was elevated to the level of strategic partnership during his first visit to that country in July 2017.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is conferred with 'Speaker of the Knesset Medal' by Amir Ohana, the Speaker of the Israeli parliament, in Jerusalem. AFP

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader

"Narendra 'Surrender' Modi, it has been more than 24 hours since I challenged you to cancel the US Trade Deal and once again, you have quietly slipped off to Israel... you have already 'danced and sung' in Israel at Epstein's behest – so this time, on whose orders will you return after striking a deal against the country's interests?

Congress slams US solar tariff

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With the United States raising tariffs on solar modules from India to 125.87%, the Congress on Wednesday urged the government to put the India-US trade deal on hold and questioned President Donald Trump's commitment to the agreement praised by his "friend" Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The remarks came after the US Commerce Department announced the increase in tariffs, accusing New Delhi of providing an "unfair" subsidy for the manufacturing of solar photovoltaic modules.

Puppet of Israel, US: Congress attacks Modi over 'Epstein Files' claims

NEW DELHI, DHNS

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his two-day visit to Israel, the Congress on Wednesday attacked him, citing the so-called 'Epstein Files' to allege that he is a "puppet" of the United States and Israel.

The party also asked whether Modi would mention "genocide" in Gaza during his address to the Knesset.

Congress Media and Publicity Department chairman Pawan Khera claimed that emails from 2017 in the 'Epstein Files' showed that India's Israel policy under Modi was shaped by Jeffrey Epstein, former Israeli PM Ehud Barak, businessman Anil Ambani and Union Minister Hardeep Puri, rather than the Ministry of External Affairs.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra expressed hope that Modi would raise what she described as the "genocide of thousands of innocent men, women and children in Gaza" while addressing the Knesset and demand justice.

"India has stood for what is right throughout our history as an independent nation. We must continue to show the light of truth, peace and justice to the world," she said.

Hitting back, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia criticised Priyanka, saying carrying a "Palestine" bag to Parliament was easy, but condemning the October 7 massacre of more than 1,200 people and the abduction of women was "clearly too hard" for her.

Khera said it was necessary to understand the atmosphere in which Modi had travelled to Israel, claiming that the US could attack India's "old ally" Iran at any time.

He added that India's foreign policy regarding Israel and Palestine had traditionally been based on a two-state principle, but alleged that an "America–Israel lobby" had altered the direction of the country's decades-old policy.

Referring to email exchanges between Epstein, Puri, Barak and Ambani, Khera alleged, "recently, I heard Modi saying built a robot in my childhood, for which I even received a medal. The same thing is said by Trump, Netanyahu, and Epstein that we have built a robot named Narendra Modi...A compromised robot is the PM of this country. The puppet PM who is afraid of US and Israel is now visiting Israel now."

Pawan Khera

'Judicial corruption': NCERT apologises; book to be rewritten

NEW DELHI, PTI: The NCERT on Wednesday apologised for "inappropriate content" after facing the Supreme Court's ire over a chapter talking about judicial corruption in a Class 8 textbook and said the book concerned will be rewritten in consultation with appropriate authorities.

The council, responsible for school education curriculum, also put on hold the circulation of the textbook, hours after it took the book off its website.

"It has been observed that certain inappropriate textual material and error of judgement have inadvertently crept into the concerned chapter," a senior official said.

The National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) said it "holds the judiciary in highest esteem and considers it to be the upholder of the Indian Constitution and protector of fundamental rights" and termed the error as purely unintentional.

Constitutional literacy

"NCERT reiterates that the objective of the new textbooks is to strengthen constitutional literacy, institutional respect, and informed understanding of democratic participation amongst students. There is no intent to question or diminish the authority of any constitutional body," he added.

"As part of its continuous review process, NCERT remains open to constructive feedback. And hence, the same shall be re-written, with consultation of the appropriate authority, as necessary, and would be made available to students of Class 8 accordingly on the commencement of academic session 2026-27," it added.

Fight for Brahmin votes begins in Uttar Pradesh

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls are still a year away, but the battle among the Opposition parties for the votes of the Brahmin community, believed to be unhappy with the BJP, has already started, with BSP supremo Mayawati taking the lead by announcing the candidature of Ashish Pandey, a Brahmin, from the Jalaun district's Madhogarh seat.

The move is being seen as Mayawati's attempt to revive her "social-engineering" formula — bringing Brahmins and Dalits together — in the state, which gave her rich electoral dividends in the 2007 elections, catapulting her party to power.

Mayawati had earlier hinted that her party would give tickets to "Brahmins" in "good numbers", and also said that they would be given due respect in her party.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) — the BJP's main rival in the state — has also made a similar offer to Brahmins.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav has been trying to make inroads into this community — considered the BJP's core vote bank — through senior party leaders like Mata Prasad Pandey.

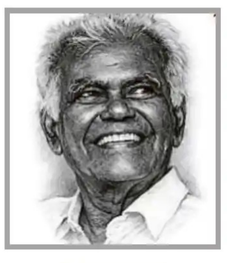
SP outreach

Akhilesh had also extended support to Swami Avimukteshwaranand after he was prevented from proceeding towards the Ganga for a sacred dip during the recent "Magh Mela" at Prayagraj, and the police allegedly assaulted his disciples.

Apparently wary of the perceived resentment in the Brahmin community arising out of the alleged use of force against "Brahmin Batuks" (celibate Hindu children receiving vedic education at gurukulas) — all disciples of Avimukteshwaranand — at the Magh Mela and the UGC's "Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions Regulations", the BJP has launched a damage-control exercise.

Brahmins supported the BJP in large numbers in the 2022 Assembly polls. Any division in their support could prove costly for the saffron party.

The people's comrade who gave all



Nallakannu
1925 - 2026

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

R Nallakannu, who passed away in Chennai at the age of 101 on Wednesday, was a freedom fighter, an icon of the Communist movement, and an epitome of simplicity in public life. He fought for people's rights for over eight decades and took pride in never holding any positions.

Fondly known as RNK among comrades, Nallakannu never kept cash awards for himself; he always donated them to the Communist Party of India or farmers' associations.

When he turned 80, his party gave him a cash prize of Rs 1 crore, collected from supporters, which he generously donated back to the CPI for various purposes. He also returned Rs 10 lakh presented to him when the DMK government awarded him the Thagaisal Tamizhar (Eminent Tamil) Award in 2022.

Nallakannu, who had been unwell for the past few months, breathed his last at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH). His body will be donated to the RGGGH on Thursday. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced state honours for his last rites.

Born in 1925 in Srivaikundam in Thoothukudi, Nallakannu joined the freedom movement as a schoolboy. He joined the CPI in 1943 at the age of 18 and remained with the party even after the Communist movement in the country split in 1964 following the Indo-China war.

Nallakannu spent seven years in jail after his arrest in 1949 for allegedly conspiring with other comrades to overthrow the then Nehru government, following the ban on Communist parties.

During his jail term, a police officer subjected him to custodial torture, burning off his moustache.

His colleagues say he then decided not to grow a moustache until there was equality in society.

A leader who always stayed close to the people, Nallakannu organised several protests in favour of landless agricultural labourers in the composite Tirunelveli district, undertook many hunger strikes, and spoke against caste discrimination since his formative days.

A simple man who travelled in ordinary class on trains even in old age and stayed in a rented government flat, Nallakannu participated in several people's movements — especially against illegal sand mining from the Thamirabarani river basin. He never compromised on secular principles.

Two Pawars may go to RS from Maha

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

With the Rajya Sabha elections fast approaching, two members of the Pawar family—NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar and his grand-nephew Parth Pawar— may go to the Upper House from Maharashtra.

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has yet to decide on the candidature and is awaiting Senior Pawar's final word.

While the 86-year-old veteran has not spoken about it, indications came from his daughter, NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule.

Meanwhile, NCP state unit president Shashikant Shinde and his predecessor and former minister Jayant Patil are expected to meet Thackeray to discuss Pawar's candidature.

"There is a strong feeling among the workers that (Sharad) Pawar should once again represent the party in Parliament. The people and the workers have immense love for Pawar, and it is everyone's wish that he should go to the Rajya Sabha again," said Sule.

"I personally requested Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Sanjay Raut and Anil Desai that if everyone wants, let's all send Pawar to the RS together. For this, we have kindly requested the allies in the Maha Vikas Aghadi. If necessary, I will also talk to senior Congress leaders in Delhi," she added.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut is batting for Sharad Pawar. The move has a political bearing as Uddhav's term as MLC ends in May 2026, and for the April biennial elections, support of NCP (SP) is needed.

On the other hand, it is almost certain that the late Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's elder son, Parth Pawar, will be sent to the Rajya Sabha by the ruling BJP-led Maha Yuti.

The NCP leadership will also hold discussions with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde before formally making the announcement.

In the current arithmetic, 37 votes are needed to go to the Rajya Sabha, and the MVA has the strength to elect only one member, against the Maha Yuti's 6. BJP is expected to renominate RPI (A) chief and Union Minister Ramdas Athawale, while the MVA allies will hold talks in the next couple of days and finalise the candidature.

Sharad Pawar

Parth Pawar

Sunetra to contest from Baramati

Newly-appointed Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar will contest the Assembly bypoll from Baramati, a seat her late husband and NCP chief Ajit Pawar represented a record eight times.

Efforts are underway to ensure that Sunetra, who is currently a RS member, is elected unopposed from the family seat.

A formal announcement is awaited from the party on the candidature. Meanwhile, it is set to anoint her as the NCP national president.

Cybercrime crackdown: Telangana cops identify 4,775 mule bank accounts

Findings raise suspicion of collusion between bank staff and organised network of agents

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Telangana Police have said they have identified thousands of mule bank accounts across 16 districts in the state.

On Wednesday, the Telangana Police launched "Operation Crackdown", which it said was meant to dismantle cybercrime networks across the state.

Conceived by the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB), Operation Crackdown will reportedly involve a series of operations over the next few months.

As part of it, the TGCSB, in collaboration with districts and commissionerates, is expected to target the state's cybercriminal networks and overall cybercrime ecosystem.

The first operation in this series was launched on Wednesday, specifically targeting mule bank accounts across Telangana.

Data analysis by the TGCSB revealed that during 2025, 4,775 mule accounts were operated in the state.

As part of Wednesday's operation, 1,888 suspected mule accounts opened in 137 bank branches were being checked.

These accounts are said to be linked to 9,431 crimes across the country, including 782 in Telangana.

In all, 137 police teams, comprising 512 officers and personnel, are involved in Wednesday's coordinated drive.

These teams visited and inspected 137 bank branches and collected KYC details of suspicious mule account holders.

The checking and verification are currently underway. Initial verification has reportedly shown that many bank branches have multiple mule accounts, in some cases running into hundreds.

This has led to suspicion of collusion of bank staff as well as an organised network of agents.

In a few cases, a single account operating from Hyderabad's Sultan Bazar was found to be linked to 496 crime complaints across multiple jurisdictions.

In the Suryapet District, 298 accounts across four bank branches were found linked across multiple jurisdictions.

Cases were being registered wherever required, said the police, adding that it was also observed that certain smaller banks—which did not have the technical capacity to conduct Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), where the minimum transaction limit is Rs 2 lakh—were using the RTGS of national banks to transfer funds.

There appeared to be no proper verification and validation of the persons opening accounts in these banks.

IndiGo flyers stuck inside flight for 4 hours at Chennai airport

CHENNAI, PTI: IndiGo passengers bound for Singapore suffered an ordeal at the airport here due to an unexplained delay on the departure of their flight, sources said.

Some of the agitated passengers argued with the crew of the private aircraft. The incident that occurred on February 24, went viral on social media on Wednesday.

As per the video, the passengers who were boarded the aircraft are seen asking the crew for the reason behind the delay in the take-off of the flight. "We were unable to breathe as the air conditioning was switched on and off now and then. You have been patiently listening to us and now you have brought a policeman instead of sorting out the issue," a passenger is seen speaking in the video.

Aviation Tamil Nadu, a social media handle shared the video which runs for about 1 minute on its account and claimed that over 200 passengers were stuck for more than 4 hours without proper ventilation and food inside the flight.

"While necessary checks and maintenance were being carried out on the aircraft, the cockpit crew exceeded their flight duty time limitations, necessitating the change of crew and further delaying the flight," an Indigo spokesperson said.

SC stays ED proceedings against Hemant Soren

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the criminal proceedings initiated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren for alleged wilful disobedience of summons issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

A bench issued notice to the ED on Soren's plea seeking quashing of the case. In his petition before the SC, Soren also challenged the repeated summons issued to him.

During the hearing, the ED's counsel said the trial was almost complete, that seven summonses had been issued, and that Soren had not appeared even once.

Hemant Soren

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Soren, submitted that his client had appeared thrice and was subsequently arrested by the ED.

The ED's counsel further argued that the quashing petition had been filed belatedly, nearly a year after the magistrate took cognisance of the complaint.

The bench, however, observed: "Yesterday, we were reading in a newspaper that you (ED) have filed bulk complaints. Concentrate and spend your energy on those complaints. You will have some constructive outcomes."

The court also said the agency should focus on effective prosecution. "These are in terrorem prosecutions. The purpose has been served," the bench said.

On January 15, the HC had refused to quash the cognisance taken against Soren by a special MP-MLA court in a complaint filed by the ED, dealing a setback to the leader.

The ED had filed the complaint against Soren for not appearing before it despite repeated summons issued in connection with his alleged involvement in a land scam.

Kerala health minister injured during Congress' student wing protest

KANNUR/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI: Kerala Health Minister Veena George was allegedly injured on Wednesday during a protest by activists of the Congress student wing, KSU, at Kannur railway station, police said.

The Kerala Students Union (KSU) and the state Congress leadership denied the allegations.

The alleged incident occurred when the minister reached the station to board a Vande Bharat train after inaugurating the Kalyad International Ayurveda Research Centre, officials said.

State Assembly Speaker A N Shamseer, who was present at the station, said the minister suffered injuries to her hand and neck.

Television visuals showed the minister, accompanied by police personnel, involved in heated exchanges with slogan-shouting protesters holding black flags.

The protesters were seen being restrained by the police. At least five KSU activists have been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

Senior CPM leader P Jayarajan said George was shifted to the District Hospital in Kannur and is being treated in the intensive care unit.

The incident comes days after Youth Congress workers protested outside the minister's residence in Thiruvananthapuram, demanding her resignation over alleged medical negligence cases linked to a surgical lapse at the Vandanam Government Medical College in Alappuzha several years ago.

The Kannur incident has triggered a political row in the poll-bound state, with the ruling CPM and its youth wing DYFI holding protests in different parts of Kerala.

KSU leaders demanded the release of CCTV footage from the railway station to establish what happened.

The ruling CPM alleged a conspiracy behind the incident, while Congress leaders rejected the charge and accused government of politicising the issue.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

YOU'D LIKE US TO CATER YOUR FAMILY'S THANKSGIVING DINNER... WHAT AN HONOR
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HONOR
ESPECIALLY IF UNCLE NED AND AUNT SADIE ARGUE OVER THE YAMS!
A TASTY MEAL WILL BRING PEACE!
NOT IF COUSIN ZELDA STARTS IN ON POLITICS!
IF SHE AND GRAMPA BILL ARE EVEN SPEAKING!
YOU KNOW, YOU SEEM NICE
COULD WE JUST DROP OUR RELATIVES AT YOUR HOUSE FOR THANKSGIVING? WE'LL GIVE YOU A HEFTY TIP
11-18

Hagar The Horrible

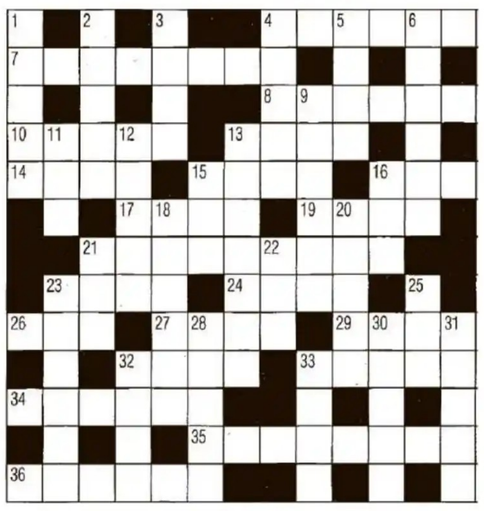
Beetle Bailey

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE OFFICERS' CLUB TONIGHT
WHY CAN'T I RUN MY OWN AFFAIRS?! I RUN CAMP SWAMPY!
11/5
AND HOW'S THAT GOING?
GREG + MORT WALKER

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12362



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 A prince at bridge? (6)
7 The cost can include £50 notes, one gathers (8)
8 Frank is no fibber (6)
10 Nominally, it could be misleading (5)
13 You can do this for yourself (4)
14 Water in a cup on demand (4)
15 Hold it for the photographer (4)
16 Some part of Germany (3)
17 Less than average state (4)
19 The desire of a woolly-headed six-footer (4)
21 Prepared papers on art, being extra useful (5,4)
23 New cast for a show (4)
24 In Ireland, time for love (4)
26 Fix with something sticky (3)
27 Tread a measure? (4)
29 It may well be a piece of cake (4)
32 On some days, sailors do their mending (4)
33 See about getting in the water (5)
34 Putting current into a line is no problem (6)
35 Foreigner of a socially superior strain, possibly (8)
36 Little hole a viewer is allowed to use? (6)

DOWN
1 In the book for a punch-up? (5)
2 Clear line in drawing (5)
3 Are there eleven at bingo? (4)
4 A female's cricket trophy? (5)
5 Get friendly with James (4)
6 Dislike being made to go again (6)
9 Dissipate any woe in unique style (3,3)
11 Sleepy wood? (3)
12 Make fitting to a figure? (5)
13 To the listener, a commanding quartet (7)
15 By receiving a service when you're a reader (3)
16 Little creature very hard on Adam (3)
18 A Slav's possibly a humble fellow (6)
20 A ruddy girl got promoted! (5)
21 Someone like Tom or Remus (3)
22 Dad has soft food (3)
23 Bird able to wreck any car (6)
25 All for a deity (3)
28 Specially nice mashed tater? (5)
30 Angry girl hiding in cover (5)
31 Make a feast of a bone (5)
32 Face being laid up (4)
33 Oversupply in an artist's atelier (4)

ACROSS
4 Afternoon nap (6)
7 Copious (8)
8 Eras (6)
10 Potatoes (5)
13 Podium (4)
14 Atmosphere (4)
15 Tablet (4)
16 Opposite of peace (3)
17 Complain bitterly (4)
19 Unlock (4)
21 Well-thought of (9)
23 Chuck (4)
24 Nearly all (4)
26 Farm animal (3)
27 Objectives (4)
29 Mimicked (4)
32 Former Italian currency (4)
33 Free of obstruction (5)
34 Leg bone (6)
35 Next day (8)
36 Onto land from water (6)

DOWN
1 Light wood (5)
2 Bode (5)
3 Betting chances (4)
4 Thieve (5)
5 Cupid (4)
6 Iran's capital (6)
9 Fliers (6)
11 Play on words (3)
12 Challenges (5)
13 Predicament (7)
15 Fruit seed (3)
16 Marry (3)
18 Assault (6)
20 Flower part (5)
21 Noisy quarrel (3)
22 Lettuce (3)
23 Conservatives (6)
25 Adriatic, for example (3)
28 Furious (5)
30 Oyster's gem (5)
31 Die in water (5)
32 Board game (4)
33 Cut with an axe (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12361

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Des-pot 7, AD-option 8, Nu-LL 10, Ace-tic 11, In form 14, Red 16, Cathy 17, Thor 19, Da-t-ed 21, B-one-r 22, Argo-N 23, Good 26, Tessa 28, Pu-g 29, Hyphen 30, Aisl-E-s 31, Pet-e 32, Mendable 33, D-edu-Ct.
DOWN: 1, Depart 2, Pouter 3, Talc 4, Spencer 5, Pivot 6, Enemy 8, Nero 9, LID 12, F-ad. 13, Rh-I-no 15, Manor 18, Honey 19, Do-g 20, Ten 21, Braemar 22, Ash 23, Gus-Ted 24, O-gle 25, D-esert 26, Thyme 27, Spend 28, Pie 30, A-p-Ed.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Reggae 7, Elongate 8, Fall 10, Flutes 11, Junior 14, See 16, Limit 17, Else 19, Coral 21, So far 22, Minim 23, Lids 26, Carat 28, Tar 29, Icarus 30, Ration 31, Axes 32, Ambition 33, Tutors.
DOWN: 1, Raffle 2, Goatee 3, Eels 4, Angular 5, Maxim 6, Heart 8, Fuss 9, Lee 12, Nil 13, Oiled 15, Sofia 18, Lilac 19, Con 20, Ram 21, Situate 22, Mar 23, Latest 24, Iris 25, Singes 26, Cigar 27, Rabbi 28, Tax 30, Rant.

◆SU-DO-KU-6840◆

					3			
2		5				3		
	7	8	5	4				1
9							6	5
			7		9			
5	2							4
6				9	5	8	3	
		2				5		6
			1					

medium

6	4	3	7	2	1	5	9	8
2	1	5	4	8	9	6	3	7
7	9	8	5	3	6	2	1	4
8	7	9	1	5	4	3	6	2
1	2	6	3	9	8	7	4	5
3	5	4	2	6	7	9	8	1
5	8	1	6	7	3	4	2	9
9	3	2	8	4	5	1	7	6
4	6	7	9	1	2	8	5	3

SOLUTION TO 6839

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

T1 N1 R1 E1 H4 A1 E1	5th Letter Triple	RACK 1
U1 C3 R1 Q10 T1 A1 E1		RACK 2
I1 E1 T1 X8 N1 G2 E1	Double Word Score	RACK 3
L1 R1 Y4 F4 E1 S1 L1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 165-175
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

V4 I1 K5 I1 N1 G2	RACK 1 =	28
H4 A1 N1 D2 S1 A1 W4	RACK 2 =	92
C3 H4 I1 R1 P3 E1 D2	RACK 3 =	80
O1 P3 T1 I1 M3 A1	RACK 4 =	30
PAR SCORE 150-160	JUDD'S TOTAL	230

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

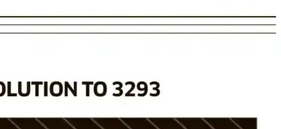
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KHSYU

ITHXS

TGRAEH

GNJLEU



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ( ) - ( ) (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLITZ TOXIN AFLOAT MERGER
Answer: London's famous clock tower was completed in 1859, which was — A LONG TIME AGO

HITORI-3294

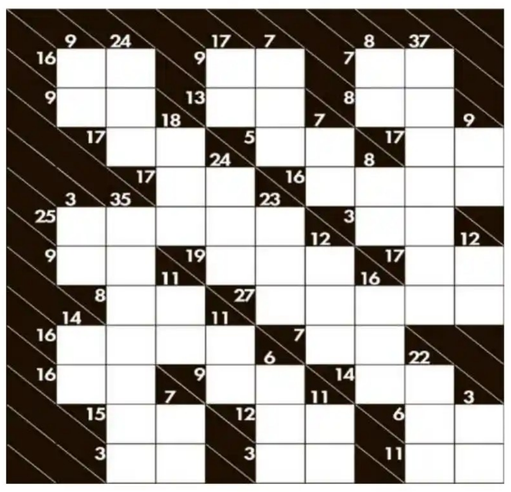
5	1	1	2	4	2	8	2
1	1	4	8	1	2	7	5
6	7	3	7	5	4	1	8
4	7	2	1	7	5	2	7
1	8	7	4	2	1	5	7
7	2	8	7	1	7	4	3
8	5	4	3	7	6	7	2
2	4	6	7	8	2	3	4

SOLUTION TO 3293

■	6	2	7	■	5	4	1
5	2	■	1	6	3	■	4
■	7	3	4	■	2	6	■
6	■	8	■	2	■	1	3
7	3	5	2	4	1	■	6
3	5	■	8	1	4	7	■
■	1	4	3	■	7	5	8
2	8	1	■	3	6	■	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3294



SOLUTION TO 3293

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3839

■					4		9	■
2	7						■	
		■		9		■		
		1	■		■			
3	9			■	6		7	
			■	1	■	6		4
		■		7		5		
	■			5	9	8	4	
■	2			8			1	■

SOLUTION TO 3838

8	7	1	3	6	4	5	9	2
4	3	5	2	9	7	1	6	8
6	9	2	8	5	1	7	4	3
3	6	9	7	2	5	4	8	1
1	5	8	9	4	3	6	2	7
2	4	7	1	8	6	3	5	9
5	2	3	4	1	8	9	7	6
7	8	6	5	3	9	2	1	4
9	1	4	6	7	2	8	3	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates. AFP FILE

Gates apologises over Epstein ties, denies wrongdoing

NEW YORK, PTI: American tech entrepreneur Bill Gates has apologised to staff at the Gates Foundation over his ties with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein but maintained that he did "nothing illicit", according to a media report.

The Microsoft co-founder also admitted that he had two affairs with Russian women and that he made mistakes that had cast a cloud over the philanthropic group, while insisting he did not participate in Epstein's crimes, The Wall Street Journal said in an exclusive report on Tuesday.

Gates was among the scores of celebrities, politicians, leaders and tech entrepreneurs shown to have connections with the sex offender, as was evident in the tens of thousands of documents — including emails, interview transcripts, photos and call logs, with some names redacted — released online and collectively termed the Epstein files last month by the US Justice Department.

In a town hall on Tuesday, Gates acknowledged that he had two affairs with Russian women that Epstein later discovered, but that they did not involve Epstein's victims. "I did nothing illicit. I saw nothing illicit," Gates said, according to a recording reviewed by The Wall Street Journal.

Hindu temple in England faces closure

LONDON, PTI: A 40-year-old Hindu temple and community centre located within a complex in the eastern England city of Peterborough fears closure after the local council upheld a decision to sell the building it rents out.

Bharat Hindu Samaj Mandir, established in the city's New England Complex in 1986 and serving over 13,000 Hindus, had been campaigning for Peterborough City Council to reconsider its decision. However, a council cabinet meeting earlier this month concluded that it had a "legal obligation to achieve best value for taxpayers on the sale of assets".

Iran rejects Trump's case for war over missile & nuclear ambitions

Tehran insists nuclear programme is peaceful

PARIS, AFP

Iran on Wednesday dismissed US claims about its missile programme as "big lies", after President Donald Trump said Tehran was developing missiles that could strike the United States.

In his State of the Union address on Tuesday, Trump accused Tehran of "sinister nuclear ambitions" as Washington steps up pressure with a massive military deployment around the Gulf. The two foes are scheduled to meet for a third round of talks on Thursday in Geneva.

Trump claimed Tehran had "already developed missiles that can threaten Europe and our bases overseas, and they're working to build missiles that will soon reach the United States". He said Iran wants "to start all over again" with its nuclear programme and is "at this moment again pursuing their sinister nuclear ambitions".

US President Donald J Trump delivers the first State of the Union address of his second term to a joint session of Congress in Washington DC on Tuesday. REUTERS

But Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei on Wednesday refuted those claims, without mentioning Trump directly. "Whatever they're alleging in regards to Iran's nuclear programme, Iran's ballistic missiles, and the number of casualties during January's unrest, is simply the repetition of 'big lies'," he said.

The US president had also claimed that Iranian authorities killed 32,000 people during a wave of protests that started in December and peaked on January 8 and 9.

US Prez tries to calm voters' economic concerns ahead of midterm elections

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: US President Donald Trump began his State of the Union address on Tuesday, declaring that his policies have boosted jobs and manufacturing, as he sought to convince voters to back Republicans in November's midterm elections.

Republicans chanted "USA! USA!" as Trump, wearing a long red tie and a blue suit, stepped to the lectern in the House. Most Democrats remained seated without applauding. Some of the party's lawmakers refrained from attending the speech.

"The roaring economy is roaring like never before," he said. He cheered the lower cost of gasoline, mortgage rates, prescription drug prices and the rising stock market: "Millions and millions of Americans are all gaining."

STATE OF UNION

- Trump renewed his push for tariffs and "America First" policies to boost US industry, jobs and manufacturing.
- He called for tougher border enforcement and expanded deportations, and honoured a girl injured in a crash caused by an undocumented Indian driver.
- He urged a tougher stance on geopolical rivals and pressed NATO allies to raise defence spending

Trump quotes Sharif on India-Pak war

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI: US President Donald Trump said Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told him that 35 million people could have died if he had not intervened to stop a war between India and Pakistan.

"In my first 10 months, I ended eight wars, including Pakistan and India, which would have been a nuclear war. Thirty-five million people, said the Prime Minister of Pakistan, would have died if it were not for my involvement," Trump said.

US to raise tariffs to 15% or higher for some countries

Hikes will align with deals, says US trade representative

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The US tariff rate for some countries will rise to 15% or higher from the newly imposed 10%, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said on Wednesday, without naming specific trading partners or giving further details.

Greer told Fox Business Network's Mornings with Maria programme that the Trump administration does not intend to raise tariffs on Chinese goods above current levels as President Donald Trump plans to travel to China in the coming weeks.

"Right now, we have the 10% tariff. It'll go up to 15% for some and then it may go higher for others, and I think it will be in line with the types of tariffs we've been seeing," Greer said. Speaking later on Bloomberg TV, Greer said the White House was preparing a proclamation to raise the temporary tariffs to 15% "where appropriate". He added that it would "accommodate" countries that have trade deals but did not provide details.

He said the administration wanted to ensure it follows proper legal processes for the increase, adding: "Any time we put on a tariff, we're going to have foreign interests who want to bring it down. So people are going to sue us."

Greer said the administration's plan to replace emergency tariffs struck down by the Supreme Court with new duties — including temporary tariffs under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, which took effect on Tuesday at a 10% rate — is compatible with existing trade deals. He said investigations into unfair trade practices under Section 301 of the same law would be the centrepiece of the replacement effort.

Record 129 journalists and media workers killed in 2025

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: A record 129 journalists and media workers were killed in the course of their work last year, two-thirds of them killed by Israel, the Committee to Protect Journalists said on Wednesday.

It was the second straight year that press killings set a record and the second straight year that Israel was responsible for two-thirds of them, the CPJ, a New York-based independent organisation, said in its annual report.

Israeli fire killed 86 journalists, mostly Palestinians in Gaza but also including 31 workers in an attack in Yemen, the second deadliest attack the CPJ has ever recorded, it said.

UK govt makes eVisa mandatory for Indians

LONDON, PTI

New rules in force from Wednesday will see the UK transition to a digital transit system, including mandatory eVisas for Indian travellers and Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for visa-requiring visitors.

The new procedure will replace paper-based visa stickers as part of a phased programme over recent years. While the new system will still involve a physical visit to the application centre for biometric registration, it will do away with the need to leave the passport behind during the processing period.

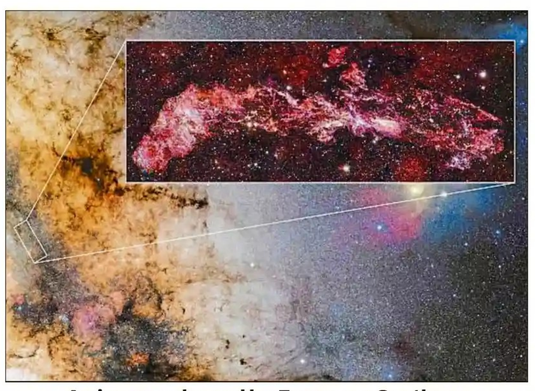
"I'd urge anyone wanting to travel to the UK to ensure they are travel-ready and have the right permission to make their journey much smoother," said Mike Tapp, UK Minister for Migration and Citizenship.

It will be mandatory for visitors to the UK to have obtained digital permission to travel, which means airlines can prevent passengers from boarding planes if they do not have an eVisa, ETA or other valid documentation.

The UK Government launched the eVisa system last year, with physical documents being accepted during the transition phase up until this week.

"An eVisa cannot be lost, stolen or tampered with, and allows visa holders to instantly and securely prove their immigration rights. Switching won't change, impact or remove a customer's current rights or immigration status," the Home Office said at the time.

WORLD AT A GLANCE



An image released by European Southern Observatory on Wednesday shows the location of the Central Molecular Zone, a region at the core of our galaxy rich in dense and intricate gas clouds. AFP

Beauty of Milky Way galaxy's heart captured for first time

▸ A telescope in Chile has revealed in unprecedented detail the swirling splendour of star-forming gases at the heart of our Milky Way galaxy, AP/PTI reports from Cape Canaveral.

The picture released Wednesday by the European Southern Observatory zeros in on a region of cold cosmic gases more than 650 light-years across. A light-year is nearly 6 trillion miles (9.7 trillion km). The clouds of gas and dust surround the supermassive black hole at the galactic dead centre. It's the largest image ever taken by the ALMA antenna network in the Atacama Desert, one of the driest places on Earth. By studying how stars are born in this so-called Central Molecular Zone, astronomers can better understand how galaxies evolved, said survey leader Steve Longmore of Liverpool John Moores University. "It's a place of extremes, invisible to our eyes, but now revealed in extraordinary detail," the European Southern Observatory's Ashley Barnes, who is part of the research team, said in a statement.

Japanese missiles near Taiwan

▸ Japan is planing to deploy surface-to-air missiles on one of its remote western islands near Taiwan by March 2031, AFP reports from Tokyo.

It is the first time Japan has specified the timing of the deployment. The ministry announced the plan in 2022 to ramp up its air defences on the island, which already hosts a Japanese military base. Japan's defence minister Shinjiro Koizumi said on Tuesday that the deployment on Yonaguni would take place in 2030 fiscal year, which ends in March of the following calendar year. The comments come during a months-long row between Japan and China, with Beijing on Tuesday imposing export restrictions on dozens of Japanese firms.

Participants in loincloths wrestle in a mud field during Warabi Hadaka Matsuri (Warabi Naked Festival) in Yotsukaido, Japan, on Wednesday. REUTERS

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

BRANCH OFFICE :RACHAMMA COMPLEX,UDGIR ROAD,NEAR JAIL: BIDAR

Telephone: 08482-228236/226381 e-mail : bdr.ksfc.karnataka.gov.in Mobile:8123640918

SALE OF ASSETS THROUGH E-AUCTION

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein have been taken possession under the provisions of SECTION – 29 of SFC's Act, 1951 and in exercise of powers conferred, the assets will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is condition" basis. The interested persons for the purchase of following assets may participate in the bid through e-auction.

Sl. No	Name of the unit/ party	Description of the property	Date of inspection	Reserve Price (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Amount (In Rs.)
1	M/s Abhishek Dall Industry, Plot No. 288, KIADB Kolhar Industrial Area, , Bidar.	Land,Building and Plant & Machinery suitable for the processing of all types of Dall, located at Plot No. 288, KIADB Kolhar Industrial Area, Bidar.Measuring 2000 sq.mtr (21520sft) ½ acre	13-03-2026 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M	63.00	6,30,000-00
2	M/s Shambhavi Industries, Plot No. Q-5, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Naubad, Bidar.	Land, Building and Plant & Machinery suitable for Non - woven fabric bags, unit located at Plot No. Q-5, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Naubad, Bidar.(7654sft)	13-03-2026 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M	174.00	17,40,000.00
3	M/s Venkateshwar Industries, Plot No. 92, Sy. No. 21/21, KIADB Kolhar Industrial Area, Bakchawdi, Bidar Dist.	Land, Building and Plant and Machinery suitable for Dall Mill Activity, property details Plot No. 92, Sy. No. 21/21, KIADB Kolhar Industrial Area, Bakchawdi, Bidar Dist. (Measuring 8064 Sq.mtr) (2 Acres)	13-03-2026 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M	385.22	38,52,200.00
4	M/s Arnika Industries, Plot No.205, Sy.No.8, KIADB Industrial Area,Kolhar,Bidar Dist.	Land, Building and Plant and Machinery suitable Plot No.205, Sy.No.8, KIADB Industrial Area,Kolhar,Bidar Dist. (Measuring 4040.00 Sq.mtr) (1Acre)	13-03-2026 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M	210.00	21,00,000.00

Terms and Condtions

a)Last date & time for receipt of EMD : 13/03/2026 upto 4.00 P.M.

b)E-Auction opening date & time: 16/03/2026 at 11-00am.& closing date & time: 23/03/2026 at 11.00 a.m.

c)For detailed other terms and conditions of e-auction please login https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and it is also advised that the Borrower / Personal Guarantors / Collateral Security Owners and other interested parties to participate in the E-auction. The interested persons are advised to visit aforesaid website.

Date : 26-02-2026 **Sd/-**

Place: Bidar **BRANCH MANAGER.**

Hindu Religious Institutions & Charitable Endowments Department

SRI BANASHANKARI TEMPLE

S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bangalore - 70. Ph : 080-2671 4989. E-mail: sribanashankaritemple@gmail.com

No.BST/1/Tender/CR.1/2025-26 **Date : 23.02.2026**

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (through E-procurement portal)

Tender invited from Sri Banashankari Temple, S. Kariyappa Road, Bengaluru for **9 tenders** mentioned hereunder and notice is published through E-procurement. Tenderers who are submitting tenders, visit website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for more information.

Sl No	Details of Tender	Tender Number	Date for Submitting Tender through Online		Tender Opening Date
			From	To	
1	Supply of Fruits & Coconut	HRICE/2025-26/IND0942	23.02.2026	12.03.2026	14.03.2026
2	Supply of Flowers	HRICE/2025-26/IND0938	23.02.2026	12.03.2026	14.03.2026
3	Supply of Shawl	HRICE/2025-26/IND0944	23.02.2026	12.03.2026	14.03.2026
4	Video Photography	HRICE/2025-26/SE0537	23.02.2026	12.03.2026	14.03.2026
5	Security Guard Other	HRICE/2025-26/SE0536	23.02.2026	12.03.2026	14.03.2026
6	Staff for Dasohagakure Other	HRICE/2025-26/SE0541	23.02.2026	12.03.2026	14.03.2026
7	Toilet maintenance	HRICE/2025-26/SE0543	23.02.2026	12.03.2026	14.03.2026
8	Plumber, electrician and sweeper	HRICE/2025-26/SE0542	23.02.2026	12.03.2026	14.03.2026
9	Grocery shopping	HRICE/2025-26/IND0953	23.02.2026	12.03.2026	14.03.2026

Sd/- Executive Officer

Government of Karnataka

MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Chikkaballapura.

Land Line: 08156-295427 Fax: 08156-295427 E-Mail –eemidcbpura@gmail.com

No : EE/MID/Cbpur/TA/Re Tender Notification/ 471 / 2025-26, Date :-24/02/2026

Short term Pre – Qualification Re tender notification

KPP Portal

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Chikkaballapura had invited tenders for eligible bidders through KPP-Portal for the following work (KW-6) in one cover system. Under this office Tender Notification 18/2025-26, Dated : 25/11/2025, Vide as per Govt Order No : MID/13/LIS/2026, Dated: 24/02/2026, it is directed to Cancel the tender and call for retender. hence eligible tenderers are informed to submit tenders through KPP-Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in as follows:

1) Downloading Pre – Qualification tender document start Dt: 24/02/2026 @ 04:30 PM
2) Pre-Bid meeting Dt : 27/02/2026 @ 11:00 AM Address: office of Superintending Engineer office, M. I. & GWD, Jayanagar 4th block BDA complex, 3rd floor, Bengaluru
3) Last date of uploading tender document : 09/03/2026 @ 04:30 PM
4) Opening of technical bid Dt : 11/03/2026 @ 11:00 AM

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Crores)	Tender Processing (Rs. In Rs)	Stipulated period of completion including monsoon	Class of Contractor
1.	Lifting of Reclaimed water from Gopalpura tank (lift-4) to fill tanks of Bengaluru urban, Bengaluru Rural and Chikkaballapur Districts under Phase-2 of Vrushabhavathy Valley Scheme.	650.00	As specified in KPP-portal	24 Months	Class-I Contractor & Above

For More details, Contact the office of the undersigned (Phone: 08156-295427 Email: eemidcbpura@gmail.com) and also through website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in by clicking list of tenders which will link to all department works list. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject tender without giving any reason.

Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water
Development Division, Chikkaballapura.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.EE(E)/PSD-1/TKR/2025-26/1818-21 Date: 24.02.2026

PUBLIC AWARENESS NOTIFICATION

Newly Constructed 66kV LILO line from existing 66KV Madhugiri-Koratagere-Holavanahalli line to the proposed 2x8MVA 66/11kV Mavathur sub-station for a distance of 14.764 Kms using Coyote ACSR conductor passing through the, Tumakuru District, Koratagere Taluk, **Kasaba Hobli Villages** (1) Kambadahalli, (2) Devarahalli, (3) Hulikunte (4) Gundinapalya (5) Gantiganahalli (6) Goravanahalli, **Kolala Hobli Villages** (1) Theetha (2) Melehalli **Holavanahalli Hobli villages** (1) Bidhalotti (2) Thimmanahalli, (3) Thumbaganahalli (4) T Venkatapura (5) Lingapura (6) Minasandra (7) Madhya Venkatapura (8) Channavaderahalli (9) Mavathur will be energized **on or after 26.02.2026.**

Hence, hereby intimating that the public should not climb towers, not to throw any metal piece/wire, tree branches etc., towards transmission line conductor, not to tie cow, buffaloes and other animals to the towers and not to construct any shed, house or building beneath the corridor of 66kV LILO line. If any accident occurs due to negligence of public by doing above said activities, KPTCL will not be responsible.

Sd/-Executive Engineer (Ele.), Project Division, KPTCL, Kotitopu, Tumakuru.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/TKR/Tr(Op)Z/SEE (O)/AEE–2/2025-26/12867-69 Date: 23.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bid for the following work.

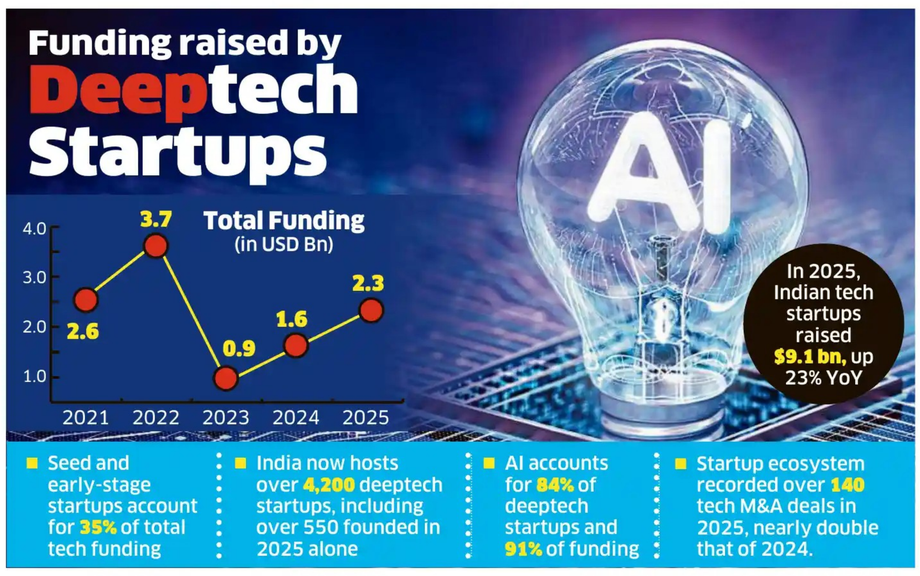
Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/Bid Enq-0105 for Replacement of 1X8 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer-1 & 1X12.5MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer-2 by 2x20 MVA 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11 kV sub-station, Madanayakanahalli** in Chitradurga Operations Division in Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District including supply of equipments / materials, dismantling and erection (including civil works), under **Partial Turnkey basis**, on Percentage Tender Basis (Excluding the supply of Major materials such as Power Transformer & NIFS, which will be supplied by KPTCL. Testing & commissioning done by KPTCL RT Staff) in KPP Portal.

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in after 03.03.2026** and any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavan", 1st Floor, 66/11KV Tumakuru S/s Premises,Tumakuru - 572103.

'AI accounts for 84% of deeptech startups and 91% of funding'

Report sees AI at centre of startup ecosystem transition



UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now embedded across 20 industry verticals, and in deeptech, it continues to lead, capturing 91% of total capital deployed, according to Nasscom and Zinnov Indian Tech Startup Report 2025.

In 2025 alone, startups raised $9.1 billion, a 23% YoY increase in funding from $7.4 billion in 2024, and deeptech raised $2.3 billion, up 37% YoY compared to $1.6 billion in 2024. AI accounts for 84% of deeptech startups and 91% of deeptech funding. The report highlighted that deeptech investment remained active in 2025, with seed and early-stage companies accounting for about 35% of total tech funding. This shows sustained entry-stage participation. Also, policy support and rapid advancements in Generative AI sustained strong investor attention.

"India's startup ecosystem is entering a more disciplined phase of growth, and AI is clearly at the centre of this transition, emerging as core infrastructure for India's next innovation cycle. This signals growing global confidence in India's ability to build, deploy, and commercialise AI at scale across sectors ranging from enterprise software and cybersecurity to defence and industrial systems," Rajesh Nambiar, President, Nasscom.

"The next chapter will be defined by how effectively we translate AI innovation into market adoption, intellectual property, and globally-competitive platforms," he added.

While AI dominates, investor attention is selectively expanding toward applied deeptech domains such as IoT and data-driven technologies. The report highlighted that AI is now embedded across 20 industry verticals.

Across tech startups, seed-stage deals dominate, and late-stage deal flow remains weak. About 74% of all funding deals in 2025 were seed and early-stage deals, compared to 93% in 2024.

The report also said that in India, ecosystem maturity should be defined by operational outcomes, rather than aspirational metrics, such as the number of unicorns.

Pari Natarajan, CEO, Zinnov, said, "India has already proven its ability to create startups at scale. The defining question now is how consistently we convert innovation into sustainable, revenue-backed growth. Capital is returning, but it is rewarding execution, customer validation, and repeatable value-creation. The ecosystems that will lead the next decade will be those that institutionalise demand, shorten the journey from Seed to Series A, and build predictable commercialisation pathways."

If India can systematically transform prototypes into paying customers, it will not only remain one of the world's largest startup hubs — it will become one of the most globally-competitive, Natarajan added.

TCS not afraid of AI, fine with revenue 'cannibalisation': CEO

Firm looking at a situation where AI itself can govern AI

K KRITHIVASAN, MD and CEO, TCS

"We encourage our associates to go out (to the customers and use AI), even if it means cannibalising our revenues

MUMBAI, PTI

India's largest IT services company TCS is "not afraid" of artificial intelligence and is also fine with revenue "cannibalisation" through the deployment of AI tools by its associates, a top executive said on Wednesday.

TCS is finding that senior-level employees are slower in building AI-based solutions compared to the "proficient" younger staff, its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer K Krithivasan said at the annual NTLF event here.

"We encourage our associates to go out (to the customers and use AI), even if it means cannibalising our revenues," Krithivasan said.

TCS is "insisting" that each of its over 6 lakh staffers are AI-fluent, Krithivasan said, insisting that the company is not "afraid" of the new technology taking away livelihood.

As part of the same efforts, the company has asked associates to explore how it can use AI in projects, even if it means forgoing some part of revenues, he said. Krithivasan added that everybody wants to learn the new AI skills, and there is no case of creating incentives for them to learn.

However, as people climb up the hierarchy and become senior-level employees, they tend to read a lot, but do not build anything on it, Krithivasan said.

It is not about just giving a few prompts to a generational AI platform like ChatGPT, he said, adding that staffers have to get their hands dirty and build solutions using the AI tools.

He termed AI as a "civilisational shift", pointing out that it is democratised knowledge, which is solving problems which were unsolved for 60 years. AI is becoming a board-level agenda now, wherein the chief information officers are being directed to scout for solutions, he said.

The new technology will increase productivity, but TCS also focuses on the benefits that can accrue to its customers while looking at the technologies.

Amid heightened concerns over governance around the use of AI, Krithivasan said TCS is looking at a situation where AI itself can govern AI by usage of multiple agents.

B'luru co inks LoI with MD Aircraft

BENGALURU, DHNS: German firm MD Aircraft GmbH on Wednesday announced signing of a Letter of Intent with Bengaluru-based firm Makmor, for the purchase of 10 MDA1 eViator aircraft.

The pact marks one of the first structured fleet commitments for the eCSTOL aircraft, designed to operate from shorter airstrips.

New fuel efficiency norms under PMO review: HDK

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

New fuel efficiency rules for vehicles under the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE)-III norms, which seek to lower average fuel consumption and carbon emission, are under review of the Prime Minister's Office, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy said on Wednesday.

"We already had a meeting with stakeholders and the Power Ministry. The Power Ministry, according to my information, now, after the meeting with stakeholders, has sent the proposal to PMO," Kumaraswamy told reporters on the sidelines of an event.

Kumaraswamy

The Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms, which were first introduced in 2017, require OEMs to produce more fuel-efficient and lower-emitting passenger vehicles. These norms apply to petrol, diesel, LPG, CNG, hybrid, and electric passenger vehicles, with gross vehicle weight (GVW) below 3,500 kg. The second phase of the norm CAFÉ-II started in 2022. The next phase is likely to come into force from April 2027.

On EV penetration, Kumaraswamy said more than 28 lakh EVs have been sold under the PM E-Drive initiative so far.

Tattvam AI raises $1.7 mn

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deeptech startup Tattvam AI has raised $1.7 million in pre-seed funding led by Seedcamp, with participation from EWOR, Entropy Industrial Ventures, Concept Ventures, and semiconductor angel Stan Boland.

Founded by Bragadeesh Suresh Babu and Lannan Jiang, Tattvam AI is building the Artificial Intelligence (AI) layer of chip design to cut years-long, manual semiconductor development cycles.

Coforge secures $158-million contract from UK-based client

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mid-tier IT services firm Coforge has secured a $158-million five-year contract from a UK-based client. The firm will provide services effective April 2026. It stated that revenue accrual under the contract will be evenly spread over five years, and that it expects material expansion of ancillary revenue around this core contract over the next five years from the same client.

John Speight, President of Coforge and Europe Business Leader, said, "AI-led conversations focused on driving innovation, improving governance, and resiliency, are helping drive a material increase in the number and median size of large deals in play across Europe."

"Our five key AI-based platforms — Forge-X, EvolveOps.AI, BlueSwan, Quasar and Data Cosmos — have set us up very nicely to address these asks," he added.

Coforge leads with its Product Engineering approach and leverages AI, cloud, data, integration and automation technologies to transform businesses into intelligent, high-growth enterprises.

US move to impose 126% CVD on solar imports set to hit Indian companies hard

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The proposed move to impose 126% countervailing duty (CVD) on Indian solar cells and panels by the US Commerce Department may significantly impact Indian exports. The US has been a key growth market, especially as Indian firms expand their solar cell and module production capacity. Higher duties could reduce price competitiveness and delay shipments or new orders in the short term.

However, this also creates an opportunity to diversify export markets and deepen domestic demand. As firms continue to scale capabilities, the shift may accelerate investments in advanced manufacturing, innovation, and efficiency, supporting a more resilient long-term position for India in the global solar value-chain, said Vasudha Madhavan, Founder & CEO, Ostara Advisors.

Indian solar products that are more expensive in the US, will automatically have reduced demand, and therefore, production too. This will eventually lead to loss of market share in this particular category, according to exporters.

India accounted for 57% of US solar module imports in the first half of 2025 alone. This business is now likely to go to other countries. Lower business will result in reduced revenues for Indian companies like Waaree Energies and Vikram Solar, who have significant US exposure.

Currently, for example, from available reports, Waaree Energies has about 60% of its order book tied to US exports. Similarly, Vikram Solar has about 20% of order booked from US exports, and Premier Energies which of course, has only limited US exposure hitherto. These and other similar Indian manufacturers may be compelled to explore alternative markets or adjust supply chains sooner than later, said Krishna Mariyanka, Government Relations Consultant, Ajira Global. "The flipside for them, however, is that the US developers may face higher costs, potentially slowing solar installations," he added.

According to industry sources, India's solar cell and panel exports to the US is around 97% of its total solar module exports. Confirmed details of 2024-25 are unavailable, but in 2023-24 alone, India exported about $1.97 billion worth of solar modules, with the US being the primary destination.

Abhishek Pareek, Group Head Finance, Waaree Energies, said, "During 9MFY26, we ramped up deliveries for US shipments despite the earlier imposition of 50% duty on imports from India."

Waaree has been progressively strengthening its US-based manufacturing footprint as part of its long-term strategy to support localised production and serve customers in that market. As on date, it has an aggregate US module manufacturing capacity of about 2.6 GW, including capacity acquired pursuant to the acquisition of the Meyer Burger facility. The company is in the process of further expanding its US manufacturing capacity to about 4.2 GW by the end of the current fiscal.

Emmvee Photovoltaic Power Limited said it does not see any impact on its business, as its solar cell and module manufacturing is primarily aligned to domestic demand.

India continues to present significant growth opportunities in renewable energy, and Emmvee remains focused on scaling high-efficiency manufacturing to serve this expanding domestic market, a company spokesperson said.

Pushpank Kaushik, CEO & Head of Business Development (Subcontinent, Middle East, and Southeast Asia) at Jassper Shipping, said, "The 126% countervailing duty is a serious blow for Indian solar exporters. At that level, the US market becomes commercially unviable almost overnight. Shipments will slow, contracts may be reconsidered, and exporters will have to rethink their US strategy quickly."

KALABURAGI-BIDAR &YADGIR CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIE'S UNION LTD.
HUMNABAD RING ROAD, KALABURGI-585 104
Phone:08472-278758 Fax :08472-257620/273609 Mobile No-9448414264 - e-mail :mdgumul@gmail.com &gumulpurchase@gmail.com

IFT No:Gumul/FTIR/Tender-14/2025-26/ 1742 Date:25.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - (KPP Portal Only)

The Kalaburagi- Bidar and Yadagir District Co-Operative Producer's Societies Milk Union Limited, Kalaburagi invites Short term tenders from eligible tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Sl.No.	Description of Material	Qty	EMD
1	Supply Installation and Commissioning of FTIR Technology Based Milk Analyzer (Under NPDD Grants)	01	10,00,000

The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the items/ goods given above. Tenderers are advised to note the qualification criteria specified in Section VII to qualify for award of the contract.

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** Interested tenderers may obtain further information at the same address. The GUMUL will not be held responsible for the website problems if any, last date submission or non-receipt of the same.

Tenders must be accompanied by security of the amount specified in the tender document, drawn in favor of e-procurement government of Karnataka. Earnest money deposit will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the tender document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender i.e. total for 135 days.

Access to E-tender Documents	26.02.2026
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Document	04.03.2026 5.30 PM
Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	06.03.2026 10:00 AM onwards
Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid	07.03.2026 11:00 AM onwards
Place of Opening of Technical and Financial Bid	Administrative Building, Kalaburagi Bidar and Yadagir Milk Union Limited, Humanabad Road, Kalaburagi-585104

Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Managing Director.
Kalaburagi-Bidar&Yadgir Milk Union.,Ltd

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
North - East	BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/ PB/4554/2025-26 Date : 24.02.2026	Rs.76,73,463/- / Rs.1,53,500/-	06-03-2026 upto 3.00 p.m.	07-03-2026 after 4.00 p.m.
	BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/ PB/4553/2025-26 Date : 24.02.2026	Rs.18,97,990/- / Rs.47,500/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North - East) .

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-

Building	BWSSB/EE(Building)/ PB/3505/2025-26 Date : 20.02.2026 2nd Call	Rs.39,97,005/- / Rs.39,980/-	05-03-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	06-03-2026 after 4.00 p.m.
	BWSSB/EE(Building)/ PB/3507/2025-26 Date : 20.02.2026 2nd Call	Rs.22,82,188/- / Rs.45,645/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Building).

Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

WWM-V. Valley-1	BWSSB/EE(WWM-V.V)-1/PB/1452/ 2025-26 Date : 24.02.2026 (3rd Call)	Rs.64.95 Lakhs / Rs.1,30,000/-	05-03-2026 upto 5.00 p.m.	06-03-2026 at 5.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-V. Valley)-1.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO5870/25-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಮಸೌಅ&AWP&B/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ/2025–26/2046ದಿನಾಂಕ:25.02.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) (KW-4) (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ.: (1)ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಇಬ್ರಾಹಿಂಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22437) (2)ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ರಾಮಸಮುದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಮಸ್ಕನಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡುವುದು .(RDPR/ 2025-26/RD/WORK_ INDENT 23240) 2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅ. ಮಂ. (PAB)AWP&B ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ 3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 112.09 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ 153.55 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ: 3ನೇ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು 5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.02.2026 ರಿಂದ 07.03.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) 7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.03.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ: 09.03.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ 9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ: 13.03.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ 10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ): ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ; ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. 11) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ:– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/552/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) BELAGAVI
Phone No.: 94838 89065, Email: echsstationhqbelgaum@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following **Medical, Para Medical** and **Non-Medical Staff** on contractual basis in **ECHS Polyclinic Belagavi, Bijapur, Dharwad, Gulbarga and Bagalkot** for a period of **One Year renewed for additional period of one year / till attaining the maximum age, subject to performance of candidates / other conditions** according to the criteria as mentioned against each post :

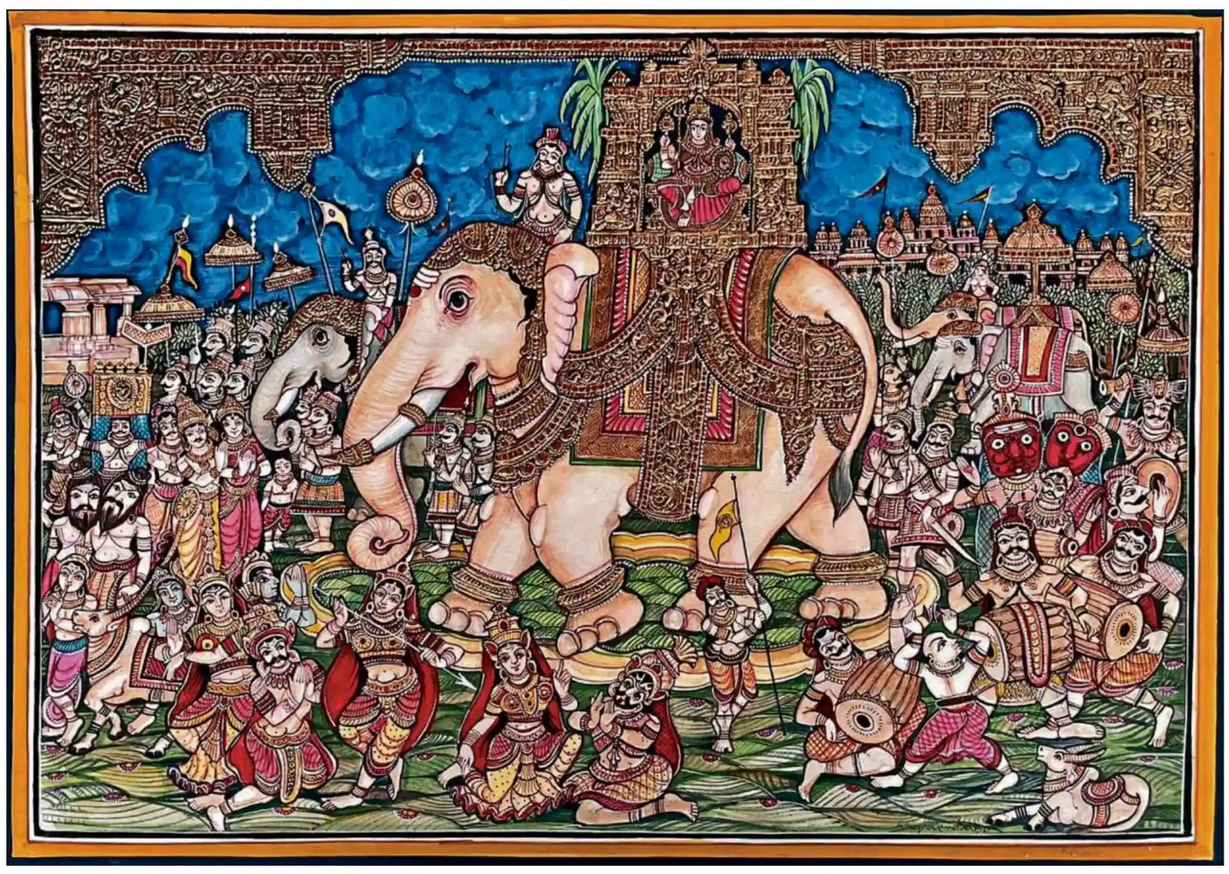
Appointment	Minimum Qualification	Work Experience	No. of Vacancies					Fixed Remuneration*
			Belagavi	Bijapur	Dharwad	Gulbarga	Bagalkot	
Officer-in-Charge (OIC)	Graduate	Min. 5 years work experience in Health Care institutions or Managerial Positions Retired Commissioned Officer's from Defence Services (Army, Air Force and Navy)	-	01	-	-	-	95,000/-
Gynecologist	MD/MS in Specialty concerned	Min 05 yrs in the specialty after PG Merit in MBBS Merit in PG	01	-	-	-	-	1,30,000/-
Radiologist	MD / MS in specialty concerned	At least 3 years experience in concerned specialty after obtaining the PG Degree or 5 years experience after obtaining PG Diploma. DMC Registration is a must	01	-	-	-	-	1,30,000/-
Medical Specialist	MD / MS in specialty concerned / DNB	Min 05 yrs in the subject concerned other Post Graduation	01	-	-	-	01	1,30,000/-
Medical Officer	MBBS	Min 05 Yrs after internship preferable additional qualification in Medicine / Surgery	03	01	01	01	-	95,000/-
Dental Officer	BDS	Min 05 Years work experience	01	01	01	01	01	95,000/-
Physiotherapist	Diploma/Class-1 Physiotherapist Course in Armed Forces	Min 05 Years work experience	01	-	-	-	01	36,500/-
Radiographer	Diploma/Class-1 Radiographer Course (Armed Forces)	Min 05 Years work experience	01	-	-	-	-	36,500/-
Nursing Assistant	GNM Diploma/Class-1 NA Course (Armed Forces)	Min 05 Years work experience	01	-	-	01	02	36,500/-
Pharmacist	B.Pharmacy or Diploma in Pharmacy	Min 03 Years work experience	02	01	01	01	01	36,500/-
Lab Tech	DMLT / Class-1 Lab Tech	Min 03 Years work experience	01	-	01	-	01	36,500/-
Lab Asst	CMLT / Class-1 Lab Asst	Min 05 Years work experience	-	-	-	-	01	36,500/-
Dental Hygienist	Dip in Dental Hygienist/Tech Class-1 DH/DORA Course (Armed Forces)	Min 03 Years work experience	01	01	01	01	01	36,500/-
Clerk	Graduate / Class-I Clerical Trade (Armed Forces)	Min 05 Years work experience	01	-	-	-	01	29,200/-
Driver	8th Class Pass Class-I Dvr (MT) (Armed Forces) Possess civil driving license	Min 05 Years work experience	01	01	01	-	01	25,600/-
Housekeeper	Literate (Safai Trade Armed Forces)	Min 05 Years work experience	01	01	01	01	01	21,800/-
Peon	Literate Class 8th GD Trade (Armed Forces)	Min 05 Years work experience	01	01	-	-	01	21,800/-
Female Attendant	Literate	Min 05 Years work experience	-	-	01	-	01	21,800/-
Chowkidar	Literate (8th Pass) or GD Trade for Armed Forces	-	-	01	01	01	01	21,800/-

2. **For Terms & Conditions, Application Form & Remuneration:** Kindly see our website **www.echs.gov.in** For additional details, please contact Station Headquarters (ECHS Cell) Belagavi at Mob. No. **94838 89065**. Also, approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details. **Preference will be given to the Ex-Servicemen and Widows.**
3. **Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website:** Application as per requisite format alongwith self attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualifications and Work Experience will be submitted BY POST / BY HAND to **OIC ECHS Cell, Station Headquarters (ECHS Cell), Belagavi - 590 009** by **20 Mar 2026 (1200hrs) in duplicate** by post. Any application received after **20 Mar 2026** will not be accepted. **No applications will be received through E-mail.**
4. **Written Exam for Officer-in-Charge (OIC Vacancy only) and Interview Date, Timing and Venue:** Candidates must reach **Station Headquarters Belagavi at 0800 hrs on undermentioned dates.** Written Exam and Interview to be held between **0800 hrs to 1400 hrs**.

S.No.	Post	Date of Interview
(4.1)	**OIC & Med.** Officer-in-Charge(OIC), Gynecologist, Radiologist, Medical Specialist, Medical Officer	07 Apr 26 (Tuesday) (Written Exam for OIC Vacancy only from 0800hrs to 0900hrs)
	Dental Officer	08 Apr 26 (Wednesday)
(4.2)	**Para Medical.** Physiotherapist, Radiographer and NA	09 Apr 26 (Thursday)
	Pharmacist, Lab Tech, Lab Asst and Dental Hygienist	10 Apr 26 (Friday)
(4.3)	**Non Medical.** Clerk, Driver and Housekeeper	11 Apr 26 (Saturday)
	Peon Female Attendant and Chowkidar	13 Apr 26 (Monday)

5. Candidates must bring all the original certificates and mark sheets of 10th/Matric, 10+2 & Graduation / Post Graduation / Diploma / Course, Work Experience and Discharge Book, PPO, Service Records and 02 x PP size Colour Photographs at the time of interview. **No TA/DA is admissible.** Note: Selected candidates for key appointments will have to **undergo 10 days** of overlap training period **(without pay)** for the purpose of **On the Job Training and Handing/Taking Over** at respective ECHS Polyclinics under own arrangements.

Scan code for Application Form



A traditional Mysore painting by Raghavendra B B.

Dhanyata M Poovaiah traces the origins of traditional Mysore paintings, their 20th-century revival, and the challenges of keeping the art form relevant and popular today

Keeping a royal art ALIVE

In Pablo Picasso's words, "Painting is just another way of keeping a diary." Indeed, the traditional Mysore paintings, a GI tagged art form that traces its roots to the Vijayanagara empire, mirrors much of Karnataka's regional history.

After the fall of the Vijayanagara empire in 1565, the *chitrakars* (artists) of the kingdom migrated to Srirangapatna-Mysore (Mysuru), Tanjore (Thanjavur) and Surpur; thereby giving rise to the classical Mysore, Tanjore and Surpur schools of painting, respectively. The mural paintings in the Virupaksha Temple in Hampi and the Veerabhadra Temple in Lepakshi (Andhra Pradesh) reflect the Vijayanagara style while the murals at Mathada Basadi in Shravanabelagola represent the early phase of Mysore style.

"Each painting narrates a story. It helps preserve and popularise the region's culture. In the present times, it helps an individual connect to their roots," says Tejas S J, founder of GiTAGGED that deals with GI tagged products.

The Mysore style of painting, with its fine lines, intricate detailing, subtle natural colours and low relief work, over which gold foil is applied, is closer to the original Vijayanagara style of painting. It evolved under the patronage of the Mysore Wadiyars, Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. While the Jaganmohan Palace in Mysuru has an extensive collection of such paintings, they can also be seen at the Daria Daulat Bagh Palace in Srirangapatna and the Narasimha Swamy Temple at Seebi in Tumakuru.

Mysore paintings flourished in the early to mid-19th century, particularly during the reign of Krishnaraja Wadiyar III, who sought to highlight the kingdom's richness through art. His *Sritattvanidhi*, a treatise on iconography, contains a vast collection of illustrations of various deities and mythological figures in the Mysore style of painting and served as a guide for a long time.

"Mysore paintings show the culture that prevailed during the Vijayanagara and Wadiyar periods. They reflect the clothing, saree draping style and jewellery of those times. Portraits, king's court, royal and religious processions were common themes, pointing to the life of the royals and commoners," says Neela Panch, former faculty of Mysore painting at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath.

While mainly portraying Hindu deities, Mysore paintings also have Islamic influence evident in its secular themes, Persian-style designs and portraiture. Its cataloguing practices and Western-style landscapes also point to colonial influence. "Chandeliers, candles and European-style furniture show the integration of European elements into traditional Mysore paintings," says Neela.

Acclaimed artist Raghavendra B B creates a traditional Mysore painting.

Artist Asha Prasad explains features of Mysore paintings to a group of enthusiasts.

However, the art form gradually declined due to the loss of royal patronage after British expansion and art patrons shifting toward British realism. The high cost of gold foil and organic pigments used in the painting forced many artists to abandon the style.

The spread of chromolithography leading to mass production of affordable colourful images of deities, further reduced the demand for hand-painted images.

Era of revival

In the mid-20th century, Mysore paintings witnessed a revival, largely attributed to the efforts of M S Nanjunda Rao and M Arya Murthy, who founded the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. They collected a number of old and dilapidated Mysore paintings from across the state and gave a new lease of life to them. Revival efforts were further pushed by Y Subramanya Raju.

Artists associated with the royal family such as M Ramanarasaiah, in association with the Jaganmohan Palace Trust, renewed interest in Mysore paintings by mentoring and training younger generations in the traditional techniques.

"One can learn the basics of Mysore painting in a few days but mastering it will take a couple of years, as every new painting presents its own challenges depending on the theme, setting and the landscape," says artist Asha Prasad, a student of Ramanarasaiah, who takes offline and online classes for students of all age groups.

Before beginning a new work, artists research the theme, study the *avatars* of the deity, the pose, gestures and unique characteristic elements associated with it. Reference books and now, the internet are used for this purpose, Asha explains.

Modern touch

A unique aspect of Mysore painting is its gesso work, used to create low relief and embossing.

"The gesso paste is a mixture of zinc oxide or white lead powder with gamboge, a yellow resin obtained from *Garcinia* trees, and Arabic gum, a natural resin used as a binder for watercolours and an adhesive for delicate gold foils. Minute details of the deities' jewellery and weapons, and pillars and arches in the background are created using this paste. This is then embellished with a 22K or 24K gold leaf, creating a 3D effect. Gamboge accentuates the golden radiance," says Raghavendra B B, an acclaimed artist from Divine Mysore Arts.

Raghavendra credits media and social networking platforms with popularising Mysore paintings, and connecting customers and artists. "Earlier, sales were largely limited to exhibitions; now, we receive regular orders," he adds.

"While the current focus is mainly on antique-style depictions of deities, there is considerable scope to expand themes. Global and regional historical events can be portrayed. I draw inspiration from sculptures, temple art, tribal art, comics and nature to develop new designs and elements," Raghavendra says, emphasising the need to modernise and adopt new themes to keep the art form relevant.

Right pricing

According to him, the perceived lucrativeness has led some inexperienced artists, who trace images instead of drawing freehand, to charge exorbitantly. Additionally, due to high prices, duplicates where digital copies are painted over, embossed and covered with gold foil, are flooding the market and being sold as originals. This, ultimately, affects the authenticity of the art form and restricts access of the authentic ones to the wealthy only.

"Right marketing is essential to raise awareness about original works," he says, adding that right pricing is the key to the increasing demand for Mysore paintings.

All the artists agree that the government should take a more proactive role in promoting and preserving traditional art forms.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Pt Santosh Nahar (violin), Ravindra Katoti (harmonium) and Pt Ravindra Yavagal (tabla) perform a jugalbandi at a concert organised by Sapthak in Bengaluru.

Creating spaces for art to thrive

Through concerts, scholarships and community initiatives, Sapthak nurtures artistes, engages audiences and keeps music alive, writes Divyashri Mudakavi

Long before the lights illuminate the auditoriums and the first Hindustani raga begins, 75-year-old G S Hegde is already at work. A retired bank professional and accomplished tabla artiste, Hegde's deft rhythms have enriched countless concerts. Yet perhaps his finest work has unfolded offstage.

Through his organisation, Sapthak, Hegde has, over the past two decades, curated nearly 950 programmes across classical art forms, bringing them to audiences nationwide. He has discovered talent, presented more than 5,000 artistes, secured sponsorships, calmed anxious performers and turned modest venues into lively cultural spaces. Many young artistes, now celebrated, received their first on-stage performance opportunity through him.

Working quietly behind the scenes with minimal fanfare and little rest, Hegde and his wife Geeta, a music Guru and Sapthak trustee, have turned the second floor of their Malleshwaram home in Bengaluru into a cultural hub.

"Even while working at the bank, I used to organise music programmes. But finding a perfect venue was a problem. So, when I started Sapthak in 2006, I decided to have an auditorium of my own," says Hegde. The auditorium, with a seating capacity of 200, has hosted numerous seasoned and emerging artistes, presenting Hindustani music, classical dance, Harikathe and a variety of other classical and folk art forms. They gradually expanded the organisation's reach to smaller towns in the state and eventually to other parts of the country.

Hegde comes from a Yakshagana family at Gunavante in Uttara Kannada district and developed an affinity to bhajans, keertans, dance, drama, Yakshagana, music and other art forms at a young age. When in college, he learnt tabla from known artistes including Rajeev Purandare and S M Bhat Kattige, and developed a penchant for music. He went on to join Karnataka Bank, but his love for the performing arts kept him constantly engaged.

His enthusiasm led his wife to study and master Hindustani music, and their son, Dhananjay, displayed an early talent and started his training at a young age. During this phase, Hegde organised programmes featuring several acclaimed vocalists. However, he saw a gap between artistes and audiences. To bridge it, he launched Sapthak, curating classical music, Yakshagana and Talamaddale, eventually expanding to diverse art forms and creating a vibrant community of art lovers.

"The music programmes organised by him have a mix of senior and budding artistes and draw a good audience. Sapthak programmes are organised in systematic way and begin on time," says CHS Bhat, who has been following Sapthak's programmes since its inception.

Hegde keeps a directory of nearly 10,000 art enthusiasts, updating them about every programme. He believes a quality audience is the heart of each performance and ensures the right stage, particularly for young artistes. Asked about his audience, Hegde says older attendees are more consistent, but youngsters are showing greater interest post-pandemic, enjoying both classical and rock music freely.

Audience attend a music concert in Bengaluru. Inset: G S Hegde and Geeta Hegde

"Getting donors was difficult initially. Once people began trusting Sapthak, several major philanthropists came on board. Thus, all our programmes have free entry," explains Geeta who has trained nearly 500 students.

Today, Sapthak even supports other organisations in arranging programmes, cultivating a culture where people can come together to celebrate traditional art forms. The charitable trust offers free training to talented students and until now, nearly 200 students have benefited from it. They provide scholarships to talented artistes, supply instruments to music schools and organise demonstrations. Beyond promoting the arts, they engage in cleanliness campaigns, plantation drives, school repairs and other social initiatives. Their son, Dhananjay, a noted artist based in Mumbai, supports every effort.

Koushalya Bhat, a Bengaluru-based music teacher, who benefited from such scholarships, can't thank them enough. She says the Hegde couple pays individual attention to every student and provides a platform to showcase their talents.

Amid coffee estates, Pollibetta's colonial legacy lingers

Priyan R Naik explores the history and architecture of British-era bungalows, clubs and churches in a small town in Kodagu

Pollibetta, a town in the heart of Kodagu district, still echoes the region's plantation past. Its bungalows, British-era clubs and churches tell stories of a bygone era, blending colonial architecture with restored heritage elements. Amid tiered coffee terraces and pepper vines, the town stands as a living record of history, architecture and cultural adaptation.

Scattered across coffee estates, the region's colonial bungalows remain the most visible markers of Pollibetta's architectural heritage. Designed for both climate and lifestyle, these buildings blend practical planning with aesthetic restraint. Continuous verandahs encircle many houses, keeping the interiors dry while allowing cool breeze, especially during the monsoon. Tall, shuttered windows and high ceilings enable cross ventilation. Traditional Mangaluru-tiled roofs, steeply pitched to withstand heavy rain, harmonise with the surrounding greenery.

Most bungalows here were built on elevations so that British planters could oversee their estates, amid a life supported by butlers, cooks and gardeners.

If one patriarch shaped Pollibetta's modern coffee culture, it was Ivor Bull, a British officer who moved to India and purchased Consolidated Coffee Estates Ltd, an early integrated coffee companies in Coorg. The ripening Robusta coffee cherries on century-old estates trace their lineage to pioneers like him. He encouraged a pooling system that brought planters together to market their coffee.

As the president of the Bamboo Club (a European social club) for several years, Ivor made coffee the engine that brought architecture, infrastructure and social institutions to this once forested land.

The historic Pollibetta Bungalow, dating to the 1880s, was once Ivor Bull's residence. With its wrap-around verandah and sloping Mangaluru-tiled roof, it stands above coffee terraces. Hardwood floors, latticed windows and rosewood panels define the interiors. Large rooms furnished with Victorian furniture and wooden shutters are a marvel to behold.

Little England

Pollibetta's social infrastructure during the colonial era evolved alongside its architecture. Established in 1886, the Bamboo Club's timber halls once hosted billiards, ballroom evenings and plantation politics. The club became a 'Little England' where coffee planters could meet, play games, dance and party to overcome their nostalgia for home. It was established in keeping with the British tradition of establishing a club wherever they resided. Its classic colonial club architecture — wood-framed lounges, high ceilings and expansive halls — was designed to accommodate large gatherings. Today, the clubhouse serves the planter community's recreational and social needs. Across the club is the CSI Christ Church. Modest compared to a cathedral, its pointed arches, lancet windows and modest steeple reflect a restrained Gothic style adapted to a plantation setting.

The Bamboo Club was first established at the Woshully bungalow where the European planters met. Built in the 1880s, it functioned as the clubhouse before a dedicated building was constructed. Perhaps one of Kodagu's oldest heritage bungalows, it stands amid orderly rows of coffee and silver oak trees, built of stone and timber and crowned with tiled roofs. Even today, it remains a vantage point to observe the surrounding hills while sipping a cup of coffee.

The Thaneerhulla bungalow, around 130 years old, derives its name from a nearby pond. With antique wooden floors and a cosy fireplace, the bungalow exudes an old-world charm. It has an expansive patio which once saw bullock and horse carts dropping guests for parties.

The Cottabetta Bungalow, built in 1888, is another residence from the colonial era, with simple colonnades, manicured lawns and views opening from its verandah — Kerala to the south, and Kushalnagar with Madikeri Hills overlooking it, to the north.

The Surgi bungalow is yet another charming property with rosewood beams, panelled doors and a colonial-style fireplace. Today, its original floor plans, outdoor fireplaces, timber elements and courtyards that once hosted planter gatherings, have been restored.

Today, Pollibetta represents an architectural continuum. Verandahs remain, though fireplaces are now largely ornamental. Restored plantation homes welcome travellers with modern comforts while preserving the heritage timber and tile with memories. Sustaining this legacy depends as much on sensitive restoration as on responsible visitors who value its past.

A view of the Bamboo Club at Pollibetta in Kodagu; the Pollibetta Bungalow. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Gold Empire clinches Calcutta St Leger

KOLKATA RESULTS

Rajesh Narredu-trained, Gold Empire, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the Calcutta St Leger, the feature event of the Calcutta races on Wednesday.

1. Silver Handicap - 1200M: Lahina (Pushkaraj Thakur) Vishal Bunde 1; Dancng Queen (Farid Ansari) 2; Royal KIng (Vikrant) 3; Diamond Gold (Azaruddin) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 1/2, 2-1/2L. T: 1-13.98. TB: Sabeel Shariff. Fav: Lahina.

2. Eastern Air Command Cup - 1400M: Laguna Seca (Subir Das Gupta) Hindu Singh 1; Cigar Galaxy (Trevor Patel) 2; Conjurer (Antony Raj) 3; Enchanting (Suraj Narredu) 4; Wb: 3/4, 1-1/4, Hd. T: 1-25.20. TB: Vijay Singh . Fav: Cigar Galaxy.

3. Indian Air Force Cup - 1400M: Abhicandra (Vikram Bachhawat) Antony Raj 1; Fable (Trevor Patel) 2; Eleanora (Suraj Narredu) 3; Merlet (Imran Chisty) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 2-1/4, 1/2L. 1-24.42. TB: Shayam Habbu. Fav: Eleanora.

4. Rasalas Handicap - 1400M: Marcolini (Mridul Sharma) Imran Chisty 1; Surprise Fantasy (Suraj Narredu) 2; Keitaro (Vinod Shinde) 3; Grenoble (Antony Raj) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 1-1/2, 1-3/4L. T: 1-26.68. TB: B Mahesh. Fav: Surprise Fantasy.

5. Mossy Bear Handicap - 1200M: Blinky Bill (Mrs E Kokila) N.Darshan 1; Cache (Gaurav Singh) 2; All Time Legend (Vishal Bunde) 3; Cortado (Trevor Patel) 4; Wb: 1/2, Nk, 2L. T: 1-13.36. TB: Neil Darashah. Fav: Cortado.

6. Calcutta St Leger - 2800M: Gold Empire (Teja Gollapudi) Suraj Narredu 1; Arrived (Antony Raj) 2; Superstar (Trevor Patel) 3; Garth (Imran Chisty) 4; Wb: 1, 1, 8-1/2L. T: 3-04.17. TB: Rajesh Narredu. Fav: Gold Empire.

7. Allerion Cup - 1400M: Sea Eagle (Shapoor Mistry) Suraj Narredu 1; Impressive Annie (R.S.Bhati) 2; Blue God (Tejeshwar) 3; Victorious Omen (Imran Chisty) 4; Wb: Shd, 1-1/4, 3L. T: 1-25.93. TB: Neil Darashah. Fav: Sea Eagle.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 16w; 11, 11, 27p; Fc: Rs 142; Q: Rs 86; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 72; Tri: Rs 1,393 & 767; 3 Ex: Rs 4,494 & 3,082.
II race: Rs 46w; 15, 11, 16p; Fc: Rs 162; Q: Rs 51; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 376 & 161; Ex: Rs 923 & 417.
III race: Rs 68w; 10, 10, 13p; Fc: Rs 360; Q: Rs 89; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 35; Tri: Rs 218 & 93; Ex: Rs 428 & 255.
IV race: Rs 56w; 17, 12, 21p; Fc: Rs 129; Q: Rs 43; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs; 55; Tri: Rs 810 & 615; Ex: Rs 3,032 & 889.
V race: Rs 48w; 17, 17, 56p; Fc: Rs 171; Q: Rs 192; Shp: Rs 49; Thp: Rs 98; Tri: Rs 4,921 & 6,328; Ex: Rs 13,532 & 2,485.
VI race: Rs 17w; 10, 13p; Fc: Rs 32; Q: Rs 20; Shp: Rs 20; Thp: Rs 19; Tri: Rs 26 & 11;
VII race: Rs 29w; 10, 17, 33p; Fc: Rs 100; Q: Rs 95; Shp: Rs 43; Thp: Rs 79; Tri: Rs 1,193 & 460; Ex: Rs 5,062 & 2,169.
Jackpot: Rs 16,448 (26). **Runner-up**: Rs 1,929 (95).
I treble: Rs 3,781 (14).
II treble: Rs 236 (374).

Pride's Prince & El Greco for feature

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Adhirajsingh Jodha-trained Pride's Prince, to be ridden by Antony Raj, and Pradeep Chouhan-ward El Greco, to be ridden by G Vivek, are likely to dominate the finish in a small field of five runners for the R N Kanga Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races to be run over a mile on Thursday.
First race starts at 4.30 pm.
1. R N Kanga Trophy- 1600M: Pride's Prince 1, El Greco 2, The Millennium Force 3.
2. A F S Talyarkhan Salver - 1000M: Ghost Of Victory 1, Shadai 2, Lempika 3.
3. Pradeep Vijaykar Plate - 1200M: Cindrella's Dream 1, Surrealist 2, Foujita 3.
4. Sir Charles Forbes Trophy - 1400M: Caviar Queen 1, Youremyeyesbaby 2, Soleva 3.
5. Indian Air Force Trophy - 1000M: Akitania 1, Viennoise 2, Rafael 3.
6. Narayandas J Dave Plate - 1200M: Precioso 1, Miss Magic 2, Ananya 3.
7. J V Shukla - Ashwamitra Plate - 1400M: Amazing Ruler 1, Vincero 2, Matisse 3.
Day's best: Amazing Ruler. **Jackpot**: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble**: 4, 5 & 6.

IN BRIEF

Kalaburagi ITF W35 from Mar 1

Rising star Vaishnavi Adkar, who became the first Indian woman to reach the final of an ITF W100 last week in Bengaluru, will spearhead the hosts' charge at the ITF W35 Kalaburagi to be held from March 1 to 8, reports DHNS.

The 21-year-old will be joined by Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty, Ankita Raina, Zeel Desai, Akanksha Dileep Nitture, Shruti Ahlawat and Sonal Patil in the 32-player main draw.

Thailand's Achisa Chanta (world No. 443) and Netherlands' Jasmijn Gimbrere (WR 431) are the top two seeds for the event.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 WC: West Indies vs South Africa **(3 pm)**, India vs Zimbabwe **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Ranji Trophy Final: K'taka vs J&K **(day 3, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

Europa League (play-offs Leg-2): Ferencvaros vs Ludogorets Razgrad, Red Star Belgrade vs Lille, VfB Stuttgart vs Celtic, Viktoria Plzen vs Panathinaikos **(all 11:15 pm)**, Celta Vigo vs PAOK Salonika, Nottingham Forest vs Fenerbahce, Racing Genk vs Dinamo Zagreb, Crystal Palace vs Zrinjski Mostar **(all 1:30 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

ISL: FC Goa vs Sporting Club Delhi **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

Resolute J&K maintain their edge

Karnataka bowlers continue to toil on unresponsive pitch

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
HUBBALLI, DHNS

It was old-fashioned red-ball cricket on the second day - a test of patience, will and hunger - as Jammu and Kashmir continued to maintain an edge in the Ranji Trophy final against Karnataka at the KSCA's Rajnagar Stadium here.

In contrast to the first day, the surface was on the damper side and the outfield also on the slower, due to the overnight rain.

However, a dogged J&K unit negated the tricky phase in the first hour and forced Karnataka to endure another 69 overs on a truncated second day as they drove towards a position of strength at stumps, finishing on 527/6 in 156 overs.

After the umpires stopped play due to bad light, the groundstaff brought in the covers as a precautionary measure and after a couple of inspections, the day was called off.

The final session of play saw only 11 overs. With 40 minutes of play lost, 30 minutes will be added on Day 3, followed by 10 minutes on Day 4.

Earlier in the day, the visitors lived a charmed life as the ball kept falling short of the fielders, prompting Karnataka fielders to stand closer to the batters.

J&K eventually ran out of luck as Shubham Pundir (121, 247b, 12x2, 2x6) mistimed a flick which went straight to Aneesh KV at square leg, giving Vidyadhar Patil (1/104) his first wicket.

The 27-year-old Shubham, who was unflappable till then, ended his 390-minute stay, having stitched a 124-run stand with Abdul Samad (61, 104b, 6x4, 1x6). And as the cliche goes, one brought two as Prasidh Krishna (3/90) induced an edge off Samad, and Kruthik Krishna happily accepted a simple catch.

Paras Dogra (70, 166b), who returned to bat after walking off retired hurt on Day 1, survived a few close shaves and got a few streaky boundaries.

And that's when things got a little spicier, and even ugly, with a lot of chatter around the J&K skipper. It also got out of hand when Dogra deliberately made a physical contact by headbutting substitute fielder Aneesh.

Once the umpires intervened and cooled things down, he negotiated a testing spell from Prasidh, Karnataka's most penetrative bowler. J&K then settled down and were rarely troubled as they broke for lunch on 380/4.

While senior spinner Shreyas Gopal wasn't in his usual elements, Shikhar Shetty (1/112) provided the much-needed breakthrough as he picked Kanhaiya Wadhawan (70, 109b), breaking the 110-run stand between him and Dogra.

Dogra then helped himself to a determined 140-ball fifty in conditions devoid of the encouragement for the bowlers.

"Very good day, we are in a good position," Dogra said after the day's play.

"Everyone knows Karnataka are a good batting side. So we need to put as much as we can on the board."

J&K continued to ride their luck as Dogra then copped one on the helmet which hit his stumps without dislodging the bails. The skipper's luck eventually ran out as Shreyas (1/130) broke his 158-minute stay on 70.

The resistance did not end there as Sahil Lotra (57 n.o.) brought up his fourth first-class fifty in 73 balls while stitching an unbeaten 56-run stand with Abid Mushtaq (20 n.o.).

SCORE BOARD

JAMMU & KASHMIR (I Innings O/n: 284/2): Qamran Iqbal c Rahul b Prasidh 6 (36b, 1x4), Yawer Hassan c Rahul b Prasidh 88 (150b, 13x4), Shubham Pundir c Aneesh b Vidyadhar 121 (247b, 12x4, 2x6), Paras Dogra b Shreyas 70 (166b, 8x4), Abdul Samad c Kruthik b Prasidh 61 (104b, 6x4, 1x6), Kanhaiya Wadhawan c Rahul b Shikhar 70 (109b, 9x4, 1x6), Sahil Lotra (batting) 57 (93b, 7x4), Abid Mushtaq (batting) 20 (31b, 2x4). Extras (W-4, B-14, LB-16) 34. **TOTAL (for six wkts, 156 overs) 527.**

Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Iqbal), 2-157 (Yamer), 3-303 (Shubham), 4-307 (Samad), 5-417 (Kanhaiya), 6-471 (Dogra).

Bowling: Vidyadhar Patil 29-2-104-1, Vyshak Vijaykumar 31-10-60-0, Prasidh Krishna 29-7-90-3, Shreyas Gopal 33-2-130-1, Shikhar Shetty 32-1-112-1, Karun Nair 2-1-1-0

Mayank Agarwal (second from left) confronts Paras Dogra after the Jammu & Kashmir skipper head-butted Karnataka's substitute fielder Aneesh KV (left) on day 2 of their Ranji Trophy final in Hubballi on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

Dogra plays down headbutt incident

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The Ranji Trophy final between Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here descended into chaos for about a quarter of an hour, eating into a few overs of a truncated day when only 69 overs could be bowled due to bad light.

Paras Dogra was involved in a verbal spat with Karnataka's KV Aneesh and the chatter turned ugly when the J&K skipper intentionally headbutted the substitute fielder who was manning the silly point.

Dogra, however, played down the incident saying it was in the "heat of the moment" and maintained there were no ill-feelings between the two sides.

"These things keep going on. When you are playing a final, these things happen. It happened in the heat of the moment. It is all okay with both teams now," Dogra said after the end of the second day's play.

Paras Dogra. DH PHOTO

"What happened today, ended right there. We then started talking, so no issues. It is all sorted now. What happens on the field, stays there," he added.

Following Dogra's physical contact, former Karnataka captain Mayank Agarwal stepped in support of young Aneesh and exchanged a few heated words with Dogra.

Karnataka skipper Devdutt Padikkal was also seen talking to on-field umpires Rohan Pandit and Ulhas Gandhe after they intervened to calm down the situation.

The incident took place in the 101st over of the innings when Karnataka were desperately searching for wickets while J&K were consolidating to a position of strength.

Since the altercation involved physical contact of two players, Dogra could invite sanctions from match referee Narayan Kutty.

However, it will be assessed on the seriousness of the breach of the Code of Conduct, taking into account the context of the situation, the force of contact and deliberation of the contact.

Technico FF complete promotion formalities

BENGALURU, DHNS: Technico FF confirmed the Super Division promotion with a second-place finish (35 points) on the points table of the BDFA A Division League Championship as the club walloped Sniper FC 5-0 in their last competitive match of the season at the BFS here on Wednesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Technico's one-sided result made the last match of the A Division between BTM FC and Sree Gajanana FC inconsequential as BTM's 5-2 victory on the day wasn't enough to take them beyond third place with 32 points. Stride Sports FC earlier claimed the league title and first promotion spot.

Meanwhile, Ronn Jairus Joel's first-half brace (14th and 44th minute) put the match beyond any doubt for Technico against a lowly Snipers FC (10th with 16). Sunil Bhatt (41st), Thangjslen Guite (53rd) and Natahan Akash Powell also joined the party.

In the B Division, Group A toppers Mysore Vijayanagar were crowned the champions with a 1-0 victory over Group B winners FC Mangalore.

Results: A Division: Technico FF: 5 (Ronn Jairus Joel 14th, 44th, Sunil Bhatt 41st, Thangjslen Guite 53rd, Nathan Akash Powell 58th) bt Sniper FC: 0; BTM FC: 5 (Devaraj J 8th, Niranjai Nanu 11th, 83rd, 89th) bt Sree Gajanana FC: 2 (E Devaraj 48th, B Niroshan Babu 72nd).
B Division: Group A: Mysore Vijayanagar FC: 1 (Shaun Kumar 15th) bt FC Mangalore: 0.

IFL 2 set to commence from March 24

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is all set to conduct the I-League 2 (Indian Football League 2) from March 24 as it invited all 10 eligible clubs, including SC Bengaluru and Bengaluru United, to confirm their participation by February 27.

Clubs will have to do so by paying the participation fee (Rs 2 lakh) by the cut-off date. The tournament will be played in a single-round-robin format, where each club faces the other once while each club will get four to five home matches.

The top two at the end of the season will be promoted to the second tier or IFL while no relegation has been included in the competition format, as AIFF intends to merge I-League 2 and I-League 3 together for a 40-team competition, with clubs divided into four conferences as per their location.

The confirmation comes two days before the start of the IFL, which has no representation from Karnataka this season.

Bodo/Glimt knock Inter out

Newcastle, Atletico reach last 16 of Champions League

PARIS, AFP

Norway's Bodo/Glimt pulled off one of the most remarkable results in modern Champions League history on Tuesday, beating last season's runners-up Inter Milan 2-1 at San Siro to reach the last 16 with a 5-2 aggregate triumph, while Newcastle United, Atletico Madrid and Bayer Leverkusen also went through.

Bodo/Glimt, the modest outfit from north of the Arctic Circle, were looking to follow up their stunning 3-1 win last week in Norway in the first leg of their knockout phase playoff tie.

Inter, the three-time European champions who are currently 10 points clear at the top of Serie A, were expected to pummel their visitors in an attempt to turn the tie around. But Bodo/Glimt survived at the back before finishing off the tie in the second half.

Jens Petter Hauge, who played for AC Milan in 2020/21, gave his team the lead just before the hour mark after a mistake by Manuel Akanji had allowed Ole Blomberg in for an initial shot which was saved.

Hakon Evjen made it 2-0 on the night and 5-1 on aggregate, leaving Inter with too much to do, even if Alessandro Bastoni pulled one back with a shot that just crossed the line.

Bodo/Glimt, who had won four Norwegian Eliteserien titles in five years before finishing as runners-up last season to Viking Stavanger, are the first side from the country to go so far in Europe's elite club competition since Rosenborg reached the quarter-finals in 1997.

Results: Atletico Madrid: 4 (Sorloth 23rd, 76th, 87th, Cardoso 48th) bt Club Brugge: 1 (Ordonez 36th) (Atletico Madrid win 7-4 on aggregate); Bayer Leverkusen: 0 lt to Olympiacos: 0 (Bayer Leverkusen win 2-0 on agg); Inter Milan: 1 (Bastoni 76th) lt to Bodo/Glimt: 2 (Hauge 58th, Evjen 72nd) (Bodo/Glimt win 5-2 on agg); Newcastle: 3 (Tonali 4th, Joelinton 6th, Botman 52nd) bt Qarabag: 2 (Duran 50th, Jafarguliyev 57th) (Newcastle win 9-3 on agg).

Hakon Evjen celebrates after scoring Bodo/Glimt's second goal during their 2-1 win over Inter Milan in the second leg of Champions League play-off in Milan on Tuesday. AFP

Indian shuttlers struggle in opening round

MULHEIM AN DER RUHR (GERMANY), PTI: Indian shuttlers struggled in their opening round matches of the German Open Super 300 badminton tournament, here on Wednesday.

Kiran George lost to top seed Christo Popov of France 10-21, 20-22 in 47 minutes in a men's singles round of 32 match.

Tharun Mannepalli also lost to Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei in 44 minutes in another men's singles first round match.

In the women's singles, Malvika Bansod went down fighting to Beiwen Zhang of USA 21-19, 9-21, 19-21 in 56 minutes in a round of 32 match.

Tasnim Mir lost to top seed Wang Zhi Yi of China 9-21, 14-21 in 28 minutes in another women's singles first round match.

Veteran Kidambi Srikanth in men's singles and World Junior Championships silver medallist Tanvi Sharma in the women's singles are among the top Indians taking part in the Super 300 tournament.

India pin Australia down to secure a victory at last

HOBART, PTI: The Indian men's hockey team ended a prolonged losing streak in the FIH Pro League, upstaging world No. 3 Australia 3-1 in a shoot-out after both sides were locked 1-1 at the end of regulation time, here on Wednesday.

It was a close battle between the two teams in the first three quarters, which ended goalless but the win in their final game of the Hobart leg of the Pro League should be a confidence booster for the Indians.

Australia finally took the lead in the 49th minute through a penalty corner conversion by Jeremy Hayward.

But the home team's joy was short-lived as Shilanand Lakra (51st) scored a fine field goal two minutes later to draw level.

Thereafter, both teams tried hard to score the all-important winner but failed as the match went into the shoot-out, where India emerged victorious to take two points while Australia pocketed one point.

In the shoot-out, Lakra, Maninder Singh and Vishnukant Singh scored for India, while Australia's lone goal was scored by Hayward as India custodian Mohith Shashikumar Honnenahalli produced a superb show under the post.

Shilanand Lakra. X

After a disastrous Rourkela leg of the Pro League where India had lost all four matches, India had made a losing start to the Hobart leg.

India are currently placed eighth in the nine-team competition with just four points from eight matches.

India will next play against the Netherlands and Germany in the Rotterdam leg, starting with a match against the hosts on June 21.

Mumbai take Karnataka out

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka fell in the quarterfinals of the Col CK Nayudu Trophy as the U-23 side conceded a first-innings lead to Mumbai in a drawn match in Kandivali, Maharashtra, on Tuesday.

Mumbai piled on a 667 all out in response to Karnataka's 240 with Abhigyan Kundu (159), Ayush Jethwa (151) and Mannan Bhatt (120) taking a good measure of the Karnataka bowlers.

Samit Dravid was the most successful bowler with figures of 3/77 for Karnataka, while Karthikeya KP and Aneeshwar Gautam bagged a couple each.

Karnataka were teetering at 110/7 in their second innings when the proceedings were called off. Dhruv Prabhakar scored an unbeaten 31.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 240 all out & 110/7 in 48 overs (Dhruv Prabhakar 31 n.o.; Suryansh Shedge 2-30, Atharva Bhosale 2-16, Mannan Bhatt 2-25) drew with Mumbai (O/n: 616/7): 665 all out in 210 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 92, Ayush Jethwa 151, Manan Bhatt 120, Abhigyan Kundu 159, Karthik Kumar 29, Himanshu Singh 30; Samit Dravid 3-77, Karthikeya KP 2-98, Aneeshwar Gautam 2-14).

Vaishnavi's quiet confidence shines through

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Whether it is outside or within the confines of a tennis court, Vaishnavi Adkar prefers to live in her own bubble. For the mellow 21-year-old Pune girl, it is a self-created protective shell where she constatly introspects, analyses, learns and unlearns about her sport and life in general.

Locked-in in that safe space while completely committing herself to the process helped Vaishnavi achieve her career best result last week at the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100 here at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium. Overcoming three higher-ranked opponents - two in the top-150 and one in the top-250 - en route to her maiden W100 final, Vaishnavi's resilience over five tough days saw her ranking jump from 690 in the world to 466 in the lastest WTA list released on Monday.

"For Vaishnavi, the belief that she can beat these players, will be a game-changer going forward," coach Balachandran Manikkath, who trains the youngster at the Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy (RBTA), tells *DH*.

"She moved more than 200 spots in the ranking which is not common. With higher ranking, we can now target tournaments also at higher level. After this week, it's clear Vaishnavi can beat players in the top-200. Now, she has to be competing against players of that level to get familiar with the physical and mental demands to stay competitive," analyses Manikkath when asked about the impact a successful week such as the one in Bengaluru does to upcoming players on the Tour.

Vaishnavi Adkar's run to the final at the ITF Women's Open W100 in Bengaluru last week saw the youngster's world ranking jump from 690 to 466.
DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

Prior to the W100 here, Vaishnavi's best run on the ITF women's circuit came in the W15 Ahmedabad (winner, 2024), W15 Nakhon Si Thammarat (runner-up, 2024), W15 Tashkent (runner-up, 2025) and W35 Solapur (losing semifinalist). Follwing an injury-marred 2025, the start to the new season this year was anything but smooth as Vaishnavi lost two close opening round matches at the WTA Mumbai 125 and ITF W75 in Pune.

Shifting to RBTA two months ago, however, has brought in a positive change as there are early signs of improvement, especially her serves. But coach Manikkath credits Vaishnavi's temperment and eagerness to learn as her best qualities both as a player and person.

"She is smart, intelligent and has this quiet confidence. As a player, she is very open to new ideas and willing to try them out. She doesn't hesitate to try whatever new ideas shared with her in a match," points the senior coach.

For someone who calls herself 'an introvert' despite growing up in a joint family in Pune - where she picked up the racquet aged six because of her tennis-loving mother who is a big admirer of Steffi Graf - all the attention and love pouring in over the last week have been overwhelming.

But what stood out, in spite of the new terrain, was the maturity with which she handled both the big victories and the crushing loss in the final, where she went down 0-6, 1-6 to eventual champion Hanne Vandewinkel of Belgium (ranked 124).

"It was tough to process all of it. All the attention, the headlines and everything has been quite overwhelming. But, yeah, I just have to think of it as a beginning of umm... an unexplored path. This is just the beginning.

"Yeah, this is just a part of playing the sport. So, the attention will always be there. So, I just have to learn how to deal with it and not let it affect me in any way," she reminds herself similar to how she reminded herself to go for the shots freely at the end of every point the whole of last week.

Bruised Indians eye big win

Defending champs take on Zimbabwe in a must-win Super 8s match

Sanju Samson (left) and Axar Patel are set to return for India's crucial Super Eights match against Zimbabwe in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

One defeat doesn't make a good team bad. But that one loss alone has the potential to derail a dream. That's the situation a battered Indian team finds itself in right now, and they'll be itching to prove the humbling by South Africa was just an aberration when they take on Zimbabwe in a must-win Super Eights encounter of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Right from the road to the 2024 T20 World Cup in the Americas, where the Indians lifted the trophy for the second time by going undefeated in the tournament, till the bruising 76-run loss against South Africa in Ahmedabad on Sunday, the Men In Blue have been a cut above the rest in the shortest format.

They were picking wins for fun — the defeat against South Africa was just their seventh in 46 T20Is post the 2024 World Cup — thanks to their batters in marauding form, with four of them in the top-10 rankings list, and beautifully complemented by their all-round bowling attack.

Such was their dominance, they were the favourites to win a record third trophy. But what has to go wrong has gone horribly wrong for the Indians in the marquee event, and they now stand on the precipice of a disaster. However, hope is still not lost, but to keep that flame burning, they need to find instant solutions to their batting troubles, starting with an equally smarting Zimbabwe at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

The problem for India begins from the top with their World's No. 1 T20 batter Abhishek Sharma struggling to buy a run. In the four matches he has played, he's gotten out for a duck on three occasions, with a highest score of 15. Oppositions have found an antidote to negate his pulverising hitting, and the 25-year-old, swimming in unchartered territory, has struggled to find a cure. Sadly, time is running out, and he really needs to get his bearing right against Zimbabwe.

Not just Abhishek, but the rest of the top and middle order needs to stand up and deliver. Loaded with left-handers, the Indian line-up wears a predictable look, and opposition bowlers have tied them down with the help of finger spinners. The Indian think-tank, mystified by the batting failures on the biggest stage, has offered enough indication of shaking things up for the crunch game.

In order to break the left-handed monotony, right-handed Sanju Samson is set to return to the playing XI, but where he bats is a mystery. Would Samson, a natural opener, play in his usual position, which means either Kishan or Abhishek dropping a spot down? Or will the keeper-batter play at one-drop with Tilak Varma (left-hander) and skipper Suryakumar swapping positions from their No. 3 and No. 4 positions based on the situation? The answers will be known on Thursday.

The game could also see the return of vice-captain Axar Patel after being benched in the previous two games. His inclusion should add cover to ace spinner Varun Chakravarthy, playing in his home ground, should he have a bad day like he did against South Africa.

Underdogs Zimbabwe, who stunned the cricketing world when they beat Australia in a group affair and qualified for the Super Eights at the heavyweights' expense, got a reality check when a resurgent West Indies took them to the cleaners in Mumbai on Monday. All the joie de vivre suddenly dissipated in the muggy air of Mumbai.

Their semifinal hope, just like India's, is hanging by the slimmest of threads. They'll be hoping to cling onto it a little longer by causing the shocker of mammoth proportions. India, with their egos bruised and pride battered, know they need the perfect game — which they haven't produced so far — to cut Zimbabwe off and keep themselves afloat. And they'll be looking to do that by posting a massive win which is non-negotiable.

The squads: India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Rinku Singh.

Zimbabwe: Sikandar Raza (c), Brian Bennett, Ryan Burl, Graeme Cremer, Bradley Evans, Clive Madande, Tinotenda Maposa, Tadiwanashe Marumani, Wellington Masakadza, Tony Munyonga, Tashinga Musekiwa, Blessing Muzarabani, Dion Myers, Richard Ngarava, Ben Curran.

Rinku to return

India's batting coach, Sitanshu Kotak, said Rinku Singh had to fly back home on Tuesday to tend to his ailing father, and the southpaw is scheduled to join the team on Wednesday night, reports DHNS.

"Rinku, his father wasn't well so he went back and I think he is coming back today (Wednesday) evening. So, hopefully he will be back today evening," said Kotak.

Kotak hints at Samson's return

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak on Wednesday dropped enough hints at Sanju Samson's return to the playing XI but at the same time backed out-of-sorts opener Abhishek Sharma and the rest of his under-fire batting colleagues to come good in the crunch Super Eights game against Zimbabwe.

Sitanshu Kotak

Abhishek has had a forgettable tournament so far with three ducks and a highest score of 15. Similarly, Tilak Varma too hasn't got going and even others have been found wanting on a few occasions against finger spinners in challenging conditions.

Kotak, addressing the media for a second time in four days here, reckoned changes could take place for the Zimbabwe battle. "There can be changes, yes. And obviously, it goes without saying because we have two left-handed openers, number three is left-handed and the opposition is bowling off-spin. I personally don't think that there is any problem there.

"But because we lost three games, we lost a wicket in the first over, obviously any team would think. So we are thinking about it and we will see how it goes. We never decide the team too early and obviously it is not fair to start telling our plans in advance. But yes, definitely there will be thoughts."

Kotak, who was constantly grilled about India's collective batting failure, said it's unfair to heap heavy criticism on the team for a rare bad outing. "I think in this World Cup, only the last game was a concern because in a year and a half, roughly, a couple of times only we got less than 150. So I am not really looking at individuals, how many times somebody failed or how. Because then we start putting pressure on the way they bat."

Zim to target spin weakness

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Ryan Burl

Zimbabwe all-rounder Ryan Burl on Wednesday said his team has taken note of Indian batters' struggles against spin, especially off-spin, in this ICC T20 World Cup and they would be looking to exploit it in a must-win game for either side in a Super Eights clash on Thursday.

"It's something that we have taken into account. Obviously, we've done our homework and it's something that we would be silly to ignore going into tomorrow's game," said Burl at the pre-match press conference at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. "It's also about the match-ups. You know, what are their strengths, what are our strengths and how can we expose maybe any small little advantages that we have in our favour. So, yeah, it's something that we do have to take into account.

Although India are smarting from the South Africa defeat and things are unravelling badly for them, Burl reckoned playing the Men In Blue at home is one of cricket's biggest challenges. "We don't get to play India a lot, so it's something that we really have been looking forward to and we will grab the opportunity with both hands. Playing India in India is a challenge in itself.

"They obviously got a home ground advantage, but the added pressure of both teams needing to win tomorrow's game. Pressure does funny things to teams. And obviously, it being a World Cup, there's that added pressure as well. We've obviously got our processes that we want to go through," he said.

Black Caps end Lankan dreams

COLOMBO, PTI

Co-hosts Sri Lanka were on Wednesday knocked out of T20 World Cup as Rachin Ravindra grabbed a career-best 4/27 in a splendid all-round display to power New Zealand to a comprehensive 61-run victory in their Super Eights clash here.

Cole McConchie justified his selection with a composed unbeaten 31 off 23 balls (3x4, 2x6) while skipper Mitchell Santner came into his own with a 26-ball 47 (2x4, 4x6) as the duo stitched a match-defining 84-run seventh wicket stand off 47 balls to lift New Zealand to 168/7 after Sri Lanka opted to bowl.

After allowing the Kiwis to score 70 runs in the last four overs, Sri Lanka, who had collapsed for 95 against England in their Super Eights opener, suffered yet another batting meltdown.

Chasing 169, Sri Lanka could only score 107/8 with Ravindra -- who also made 32 with the bat -- leading the spin charge after pacer Matt Henry rocked the islanders in the powerplay with a sensational bowling display of 2-1-3-2.

The emphatic victory margin not only sealed two crucial points for New Zealand but also put them firmly on the brink of a semifinal berth. Pakistan will now need a massive win in their final game against Sri Lanka to keep their semifinal qualification hopes alive.

New Zealand next face England in their concluding Super Eights fixture here on Friday, while Pakistan take on the already-eliminated Sri Lanka in Pallekele on Saturday.

Defending 168, New Zealand strangled Sri Lanka in the powerplay through Henry. The pacer struck with the first ball of the opening over, dismissing in-form Pathum Nissanka for a golden duck with a 137kph delivery that pitched on a length outside off, jagged back in and crashed into the stumps.

In the first ball of his next over, Henry removed Charith Asalanka (5), this time he took the pace off and induced a mistime shot that resulted to a simple catch.

Sri Lanka looked devastated and limped to 20 for two in the powerplay with a flurry of dot balls.Ravindra then took control, and in his first over, he dismissed Kusal Mendis by pulling his length back and spinning the ball away as the batter stepped out, leaving the wicketkeeper to complete a sharp stumping. The duo's late onslaught saw the Kiwis plunder 70 runs in the final four overs.

New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra claimed 4/27 to derail Sri Lanka's chase during their Super 8s match of the T20 World Cup in Colombo on Wednesday. AFP

Brief scores: New Zealand: 168/7 in 20 overs (Rachin Ravindra 32, Mitchell Santner 47, Cole McConchie 31 n.o.; Maheesh Theekshana 3-30, Dushmantha Chameera 3-38) bt Sri Lanka: 107/8 in 20 overs (Kamindu Mendis 31, Dunith Wellalage 29, Rachin Ravindra 4-27, Matt Henry 2-3). **Results:** NZ won by 61 runs. **PoM:** Rachin Ravindra.

SUPER 8s GROUP 2

Teams	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
England (Q)	2	2	0	0	4	+1.491
New Zealand	2	1	0	1	3	+3.050
Pakistan	2	0	1	1	1	-0.461
Sri Lanka	2	0	2	0	0	-2.800

SUPER 8s GROUP 1

Teams	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
West Indies	1	1	0	0	2	+5.350
South Africa	1	1	0	0	2	+3.800
India	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**-3.800**
Zimbabwe	1	0	1	0	0	-5.350

Captain Brook's redemption after low phase

MUMBAI, AFP: Richly talented but much maligned, England captain Harry Brook finally achieved redemption at Pallekele stadium in Kandy after a torrid few months -- and came of age as a leader.

His match-winning century against Pakistan on Tuesday will go down as the finest innings of the 27-year-old's white-ball career because it single-handedly took his side into a fifth successive T20 World Cup semi-final.

Facing a tricky chase of 165 against Pakistan at the Pallekele stadium in Kandy, England could have been in dire straits when they lost Phil Salt first ball of the innings.

But Brooks, who normally bats at number five, strode to the wicket first drop in a massive statement of intent that said "leave it to me, lads".

He embarked on a majestic innings -- the second fastest century in the history of T20 World Cup and first by a captain -- in an extraordinary demonstration of leadership from a man who had copped more than his fair share of flak.

Before the tournament there had been calls for Brook's resignation after his apology for punching a bouncer during NZ tour.

A battle between Windies' batting & Proteas' pace attack

AHMEDABAD, PTI: The West Indies' big-hitting ability will face a stern test from South Africa when the two unbeaten teams square off in a Super 8 clash of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday, looking to tighten their grip on a semifinal spot.

South Africa come into the contest after a commanding 76-run win over home-favourites India in Ahmedabad, while the West Indies hammered Zimbabwe by 107 runs in their previous outing in Mumbai to underline their batting firepower.

West Indies' line-up, packed with power-hitters, has shown the ability to take the game away in a matter of overs. However, they will now be up against a balanced South African bowling attack that dismantled India here on Sunday.

It was a collective effort from the bowling unit comprising Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi, whose pace variations have foxed the best of batters in the tournament thus far.

South Africa's batting too has done the job consistently. David Miller remains the crisis man for the Proteas and he showed that with a match-winning effort against India after the setbacks in the powerplay.

Shimron Hetmyer

LIVE @ 3.00 PM

The contest promises intriguing individual battles. Hetmyer's aggressive stroke-play against Rabada's pace and bounce could set the tone, while Powell's ability to dominate spin will be tested by Maharaj's accuracy and changes of pace.

Unlike previous night games in Ahmedabad, an afternoon contest could present a different dynamic. The absence of dew is likely to make conditions even across both innings, reducing the toss advantage.

Also, A West Indies victory could complicate matters for hosts India. It would put the Caribbean side on the brink of a semifinal spot and leave South Africa to face Zimbabwe in their final Super 8 fixture.

Angry Pak fans threaten skipper Agha's family

LAHORE, PTI: Upset at Pakistan's defeat against England in the T20 World Cup Super Eights match, cricket fans posted threatening messages directed at the family of captain Salman Agha.

Salman's wife, Sabe, posted on her Instagram account that by abusing and threatening her or her son, Pakistan will not win the T20 World Cup. The fans also resorted to posting abusive language to other players after Pakistan lost the match by two wickets in Pallekele, Sri Lanka, on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, many social media users condemned the use of abusive and threatening language against players and their families with former captain Moin Khan recalling similar experiences when Pakistan had lost the final of the 1999 World Cup.

"It is totally unacceptable and the cyber crimes wing should investigate these threatening posts and punish them," he said.

Pakistani cricket fans have been known to get hyper emotional whenever the team lost in a major ICC events. In 1996, when Pakistan lost to India, angry protesters had attacked the residences of some players, including captain Wasim Akram.

K'taka's Bhavani wins gold

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's Bhavani Thekkeda Nanjunda won the gold medal in the Nordic 1.5km sprint in the Khelo India Winter Games at the snow-covered Gulmarg Golf Course on Tuesday.

This was her third medal at the KIWG this season as the 30-year-old skier from Kodagu bagged two bronze medals earlier in the 15km & 10km relays.

"This is for my parents," said Bhavani. "Though I participate in winter sports, my mom and dad have never seen snow. I hope they will someday come to Gulmarg, see the snow, and see me win gold."

Bhavani is already a pioneer. She became the first Indian woman to win a medal at a FIS cross-country skiing event, clinching bronze in the 5-km interval start free race last yeat at the FIS South America Cup in Chile.

She has represented India at the 2023 and 2025 Nordic World Championships and competed in all six editions of the Khelo India Winter Games.

Bhavani Thekkeda Nanjunda

Medvedev powers into quarterfinals

DUBAI, AFP

Felix Auger-Aliassime stamped his ticket to the quarter-finals of the Dubai Open on Wednesday with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, while Daniil Medvedev put an end to Stan Wawrinka's tournament.

Canadian top seed Auger-Aliassime overcame the big-serving Frenchman thanks to an impressive break-point conversion rate as he managed to make the most of three of the five break points he forced on Mpetshi Perricard's serve.

Consecutive breaks in the seventh and ninth games of the opening set allowed the world number eight to seize the initiative.

Auger-Aliassime pounced again early in the second set to get his nose in front and then managed to serve out to book a meeting with Jiri Lechecka in the last eight. The Czech eliminated Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 to progress through the round of 16.

In a battle of former Grand Slam winners, Russia's Medvedev beat Wawrinka 6-2, 6-3.

The 40-year-old Swiss will retire at the end of the season and was honoured on-court after his defeat.

Third seed Medvedev will face Jenson Brooksby in the next round, after the American defeated seventh-seeded Russian Karen Khachanov in straight sets. Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan was beaten by Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

Russia's Daniil Medvedev defeated Stanilas Wawrinka in straight sets 6-2, 6-3 to reach quarters of Dubai Open. REUTERS

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com